

## Atkins outlines proposal for Ulster council

# Callaghan sees independence as only answer

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr James Callaghan, the former Labour Prime Minister, yesterday advocated "a broadly independent state" of Northern Ireland, to emerge after a process of policymaking which, he said, "would take some years to complete".

Mr Callaghan also abandoned the guarantee, repeatedly underwritten by all British governments since 1949, including his own, that the constitutional status of Northern Ireland could be changed only with the consent of the majority of its people.

Instead, he said that the guarantee would be transferred in the fullness of time, from the territory of Northern Ireland to the people, so that every citizen of the new state would be a British citizen, and would be able to vote in the European Parliament or as a district councillor. They would be nominated by those Northern Ireland parties who had been shown to have a substantial following, he said.

Mr Callaghan said that the council would have no legislative or executive role, but he would ask their advice on the province's internal government; ask them to scrutinize legislation; and invite them to consider the future pattern of government.

Mr Callaghan put forward his plan with nearly as much diffidence as Mr Callaghan. He said that the system of direct rule which Parliament last night voted to extend for 12 more months had worked well for several years. "I was a man in Northern Ireland," he said, "and I know it. But it contained one important flaw: there was not enough of a Northern Ireland political input into the governing of the province."

Political parties to discuss proposal

It was not yet possible to confer executive or legislative powers upon a representative body in Northern Ireland, which would have to be acceptable to both parts of the community. The basis for that acceptability did not yet exist, and there would be a delay of possibly 18 months or more if one were to be elected. He wished to move more rapidly.

He intended to discuss the proposed council with the Northern Ireland parties before framing his scheme in detail, and then present it to Parliament. Mr Callaghan had barely reached the meat of his speech when Mr James Callaghan, Ulster Unionist MP for Down North, interrupted to say he was making a very foolish move by not holding elections. The Government, Mr Callaghan said, was just tinkering with the situation.

Mr Callaghan said he was not offering an opportunity. "I believe we are proposing a sensible, reasoned way forward," he said. "We are offering an opportunity. It is now for others to respond."

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Mr Callaghan's plan for an independent Northern Ireland surprised his party. In recent days he has consulted a number of senior Labour Party figures, including Mr Michael Foot, the leader, who told his predecessor firmly that he could not agree with it, and would prefer the speech not to be made.

Mr Foot told Mr Callaghan that, in his view, the guarantee to Northern Ireland should neither be withdrawn nor weakened if Protestant opinion were not to be alarmed. Nor could he believe that the idea of independence would have any attraction for either the majority or the minority in the North.

Not nobody doubted that Mr Callaghan was speaking from the deepest conviction. He reminded MPs that it was he who as Home Secretary 12 years ago gave the signal for troops to be deployed on the streets in Belfast.

Since then many well-prepared proposals, he told Mr Callaghan, have been put forward by well-intentioned ministers. All had failed. They had ended in the wastepaper basket.

## Paternalistic attitude of Westminster

Mr Callaghan said he took his share of blame for mistakes. He thought that the paternalistic attitude of Westminster had undermined the sense of responsibility of Northern Ireland's people for their own destiny.

Mr Callaghan had kind words for the Government's new advisory council. And in what appeared to be an inconsistency to his own argument, said there should be fresh talks at Westminster, and that if the Government asked other parties to join it, he hoped that the Labour Party would do so.

He hoped also that the Government would then state to a Northern Ireland convention that it was not Westminster's intention to produce further proposals, plans or solutions to be dismissed. The people of Northern Ireland would have to produce their own plan.

Mr Callaghan added that Britain would keep an obligation to support the concept of an independent Northern Ireland. There should be a Bill of Rights to safeguard its citizens. "As an independent country, Northern Ireland would be able to make its own decision about both parts of the community. The basis for that acceptability did not yet exist, and there would be a delay of possibly 18 months or more if one were to be elected. He wished to move more rapidly."

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Photographs by Harry Kerr  
Two poses of Lady Diana at the centre court. With her is ex-king Constantine, of Greece.

## McEnroe and Borg do it again

By Our Sports Staff

John McEnroe was at the centre of another scene at Wimbledon yesterday when he beat Rod Frawley, the unseeded Australian, in straight sets to reach the men's singles final.

McEnroe started badly and there were some tetchy incidents over line calls before he received his first warning from the umpire, Wing Commander George Grime, in the tenth game of the first set.

McEnroe asked sarcastically of the umpire's chair: "Can you make another bad call for me?" When he returned to the baseline, McEnroe shouted: "I get screwed by the umpires in this place!" and Wing Commander Grime warned him for unsportsmanlike behaviour.

In the third set he was heard to call a section of the crowd who were heckling him "vultures" and in the end he was penalized a point for saying

"You're a disgrace to mankind" which the umpire interpreted as being addressed to him. McEnroe claimed that he was talking to himself.

Fred Hawley, the referee, was summoned at McEnroe's request but the umpire's ruling was upheld. This penalty point gave Frawley the game for a 5-4 lead.

Apart from these unhappy scenes it was a long, dull match which the 22-year-old McEnroe won 7-6, 6-4, 7-5 in a minute over three hours. McEnroe was seldom at his best and was not allowed to take things easy by Frawley, who has been on the professional tennis circuit only since 1976.

Later, there were extraordinary scenes at a press conference. McEnroe objected to the tone and trend of some of the questions and replied in blunt terms about some of the publicity he has received. Journal-

ists became involved in a dispute among themselves; McEnroe left the scene saying that he would never talk to the press again; then at least one punch was thrown.

The name of McEnroe's opponent in tomorrow's final was long delayed as Bjorn Borg, the holder and first seed, became involved in a desperate and enthralling five-set struggle with Jimmy Connors, the third seed.

Connors won the first set to love and took a two-set lead before Borg fought back to square the match.

Borg broke service in the seventh game of the final set-in his two previous service games Connors had stood at 0-40 but had survived. Borg held his next two service games to win the match 0-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0, 6-4 in three hours and 18 minutes.

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## Washington in muddle over F16s for Israel

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, July 2

The Reagan Administration found itself in a muddle today over whether it plans to go ahead with the sale of six F16 fighter-bombers to Israel on July 17.

Yesterday White House and State Department officials had said that the United States proposed to go ahead with the sale of six F16s due on June 12 had been suspended after the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

Successive briefings by Administration officials emphasized that the suspension referred only to the one delivery in June—part of a package of 75 of which Israel has now received 53—and not to any other deliveries.

But today spokesmen for both the White House and the State Department appeared to say that all future deliveries of F16s were subject to the outcome of a review on whether Israel had violated American law, which permits arms sales for defence only.

A White House statement said: "The suspension of sales to Israel announced on June 10 applied to the four F16s due for delivery on June 12. The review as to whether there was a violation of arms sales continues and no decision has been made. The review is expected to be concluded before a decision is

required on future shipments of F16s."

It appears that the Administration has, through the delay in completing the review on arms law violation, got itself into confusion.

Had the review on the four suspended F16s taken place reasonably quickly there would have been no problem. It could, as expected, have agreed that they could be shipped and the six would follow normally.

The delay, however, has inextricably linked the two, and the Administration found that the review on the four suspended F16s had been said in the past, it was effectively saying it was planning to send six aircraft not covered by a suspension, but was waiting for a review on four that were.

This happened today in furious official back-peddling and statements that appeared to toughen the stance on Israel, when, in reality, that is the opposite of the Administration's intention.

Jerusalem. Complex negotiations about the formation of a new Israeli government continued today amid growing confidence that Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, will have succeeded in forming a viable coalition by the time he is sworn in next week.

Man in the news, page 6

## Two die in Barcelona gas blast

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, July 2

Seven people were injured in a gas explosion in Barcelona's main gas works, tonight. The explosion rocked the port area and brought down part of a hospital nearby.

Firemen found the bodies of two workmen who had been missing, about two hours after the blast. They are believed to be the only people killed.

The explosion occurred as workmen were carrying out welding operations in the pump room of the installation. The blast badly damaged part of the 18-storey hospital. The 400 patients were evacuated to other hospitals.

One of the members of the wedding party was killed in the scene and suffered only moderate injuries. Two of his fellow-workers were buried under the rubble. Rescuers heard the voice of at least one of them as they dug through the rubble, but by the time they reached the two trapped men, both were dead.

## University chiefs appalled by cuts

By Diana Geddes and Frances Gibb

Universities were shocked and appalled by the size of the cuts in their grants, in one case of more than 40 per cent, announced by the Government yesterday. They pledged to fight them with all the powers at their disposal.

The Association of University Teachers called on its members in those universities advised by the University Grants Committee to close departments to defy the committee. It said that the cuts for some universities were far more savage than anything else being applied throughout the entire public service.

The National Union of Students described the decision to cut 20,000 university places over the next four years as a devastating blow for the thousands of fifth and sixth formers and their parents who were anxiously awaiting O and A level results with the hope that they will be good enough to lead to a degree.

The union would fight alongside other unions in education to ensure that no opportunity was open to present students was lost to future generations of students. Mr David Aarons, NUS president, said:

"The grants committee letter to universities informing them of the size of their individual cuts in grant and students and giving advice as to where those cuts should fall, said that the rate at which resources were being removed from the university system would necessarily lead to 'disorder and dis-economy' whatever path of change is followed."

The committee estimates that universities will lose between 11 and 15 per cent of their income over the next three years. In order to maintain standards and not to allow the unit of resource (average student costs) to deteriorate too far, it has said that student numbers should be cut over the next four years by 5 per cent over the grant over the next three years, but he envisaged losing a quarter, or 100, of the teaching staff. At Hull, which faces a 17 per cent cut in students and 20 per cent in grant, the estimate was 100 to 120 staff redundancies out of 500.

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## SDP victory

The Social Democrats won a council seat from Conservatives in a by-election at Sedgfield, County Durham, yesterday. Their candidate, Mr David Shaw, polled 668 votes, compared with the Conservatives' 433 and Labour's 367. At Haringey, a Liberal standing with Social Democrat support polled 421 votes, compared with Labour's 829 and the Conservatives' 502.

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## U S to return Iran's assets

US to return Iran's assets (18p)  
The Supreme Court cleared the way for the return to Iran of \$3,000m to \$4,000m of its frozen assets in return for the release of the American hostages. It ruled that President Carter had had the power to stop companies with holdings against Iran from suing in American courts.

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## The doctor who fell asleep

Mr Cecil Clotier, the Health Service Commissioner, severely criticized in his annual report two incidents where children were stillborn, one because a doctor fell asleep, and another in which a mother in labour was "shamefully neglected".

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## Gatting hits 59 in Lord's Test

England lost four wickets for 191 on the first day of the second Test match against Australia at Lord's. Lawson took three of them, and Gatting scored 59.

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## BL sells Alvis for £27m

BL is selling Alvis, its subsidiary that manufactures Scorpion tanks, to United Scientific Holdings for £27m. The sale, part of the Government's privatization programme, will involve more or less double US\$1.5 size and is expected to improve Alvis's export opportunities.

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## Rolls-Royce wins Japanese order

Rolls-Royce has won a crucial contract from the Japanese Navy, which now makes it likely that all the main Japanese warships will be equipped with British-made engines until the turn of the century.

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## Poland tops the Comecon agenda

Prime ministers of the 10 countries comprising the Comecon economic group began their annual meeting in Sofia, with Poland dominating the agenda, followed by the difficulties associated with closer integration.

Page 6

## Cigarette price to rise by 3p

By Our Business News Staff

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday announced a further increase in the excise duty on cigarettes equivalent to 3p on a packet of 20. There will be comparable increases in other tobacco products.

The move, which showed Sir Geoffrey's determination not to compromise on the overall arithmetic of his March Budget, is intended to recoup most of the revenue lost because of an earlier decision to cut by half the 20p a gallon Budget increase on diesel fuel.

Both petrol and derv were increased by 20p a gallon in March, but, in the face of a Tory backbench revolt against those measures, Sir Geoffrey agreed to reduce the increase on derv although he resisted all pressure to go back on the petrol increase.

The loss of revenue in the present financial year as a result of the lower derv duty will be about £85m.

The Chancellor's announcement in the Commons yesterday came in reply to a parliamentary question.

The extra duty on cigarettes and tobacco will amount to £65m. Another £20m will be raised by increasing off-course betting duty from 7½ to 8 per cent and by putting up duty on bingo from 7½ to 10 per cent.

In Whitehall the decision was explained as being intended to maintain the essential integrity of the Budget. Although it is too early in the financial year to draw any strong conclusions, there is some satisfaction among officials that government expenditure and revenue are running close to the levels predicted in the Budget after making allowance for industrial action by civil servants.

The increase in cigarette duty was greeted with shock and dismay by the tobacco companies. It comes on top of a 14p increase on a packet of 20 announced at the time of the Budget and a rise of 4p in the manufacturers' price a little before that.

Together, those increases initially led to a 15 per cent drop in sales, although demand has begun to rise again. The latest increase is expected to

intensify the decrease in sales, although it appeared, last night that prices in the shops would not be raised for about two weeks.

Betting shops and bingo hall owners greeted the rise in gambling duties with similar dismay. Coral, which owns 600 betting shops, said: "We are very disappointed that with the present dangerously high level of betting taxation, the Chancellor wishes to seek a further contribution from this source of revenue."

"A higher tax will lead to an upsurge of illegal betting and evasion of duty."

The reduction of 10p on a gallon of derv was due to come into effect at 6 pm yesterday. The price will now fall from £1.50 to £1.40 a gallon.

The Chancellor also repeated yesterday that the Government might suspend the practice of publishing a minimum lending rate, and allow market forces to play a greater role in determining interest rates. In answer to a parliamentary question, he said: "Discussions on further improvements in monetary control are now well advanced and the Bank of England has just issued a final draft of detailed proposals."

When these are put into effect, we shall aim to keep very short term interest rates within an unpublished band. It may then be appropriate to suspend the practice of publishing an MLR."



## Bank of England steps in to support sterling

By Frances Williams

The pound had another bad day on foreign exchange markets yesterday, undermined by a sharp American interest rate fall, oil prices and speculative selling. Dealers reported considerable intervention by the Bank of England to halt sterling's slide.

It sank 1.90 cents against the dollar in New York trading at \$1.840, after falling as low as \$1.8740 earlier in the day. This brings its total losses against the dollar this week alone to 64 cents.

The pound also weakened against European currencies such as the Deutsche mark, which gained 44 pence to DM4.544, to the pound from 4.594 on Wednesday. Sterling's effective exchange rate—measured against a basket of 10 leading currencies—dropped 1.0 to 92.1 per cent of its average 1975 level.

The pound encountered heavy selling overnight in New York after it fell below \$1.90 and triggered automatic "stop-loss" selling. Yesterday in London, there was substantial speculation against sterling by banks and other operators.

The recent cut in the price of North Sea oil and weakening world oil prices, combined with a large gap between United Kingdom and American interest rates, have undermined investors' confidence in the pound.

Sterling's fall of nearly 25 per cent against the dollar over the past eight months has brought relatively little relief to hard-pressed British exporters. Yesterday's exchange rate against the Deutsche mark, with Germany, Britain's largest single export market, is still 15 per cent higher than it was at the beginning of last year.

## Eva Braun may have escaped Hitler bunker

By Stewart Tandler

Thirty-six years after the Second World War fresh mystery has risen over the fate of Eva Braun, Hitler's mistress and wife for one night. According to an eminent American scientist the body of the woman identified as that of Eva Braun was probably someone else.

Professor Rainer F. Sognnaes, recently retired from the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of California in Los Angeles, helped to confirm Hitler's corpse beyond question but he raises crucial doubts about the woman's body found near the Berlin bunker where Hitler committed suicide.

He questions the identity on the grounds that: "Very severe exposure to fire caused cranio-facial bone destruction and charring beyond recognition, but despite this a dental bridge with white plastic teeth was supposed to have survived intact. This crucial piece of dental evidence the Russians used to identify the body was not found with the corpse but added later he says. A piece of bridging attributed to the corpse had been made for Eva Braun but never fitted. It was still in a dental workshop when she died."

The man who made the bridge and the dental assistant who should have fitted it were tracked down by Professor Sognnaes. The Russians have told the professor the bridge has been destroyed.

The professor, acknowledged expert on the remains of Hitler and Martin Bormann, presented his findings to an international forensic science conference in Norway. Professor Keith Simpson, one of Britain's leading forensic experts, described him as a first class dental research worker.

Professor Sognnaes would not go as far as suggesting Eva Braun is still alive but suggests there is an enigma about what happened following the last hours in Hitler's bunker. It is possible she still lies unidentified somewhere under East Berlin. In 1947, the Poles claimed she had been captured by the Americans in Austria and was last seen disappearing towards Czechoslovakia.

This week Professor Sognnaes told *The Times*: "I don't want to make up a fanciful scenario of her being smuggled out. I am not suggesting she is alive and well. It is possible another body was found and attributed to her. Based on the forensic evidence there is no basis to claim they recovered her body."

According to witnesses in the bunker of the Reich Chancellery, Hitler and Eva Braun



Eva Braun: White teeth after the inferno.

killed themselves on April 30, 1945. Hitler had poisoned himself while Eva Braun took a potassium cyanide capsule—though no survivor actually witnessed her suicide.

Bodies were brought up to the surface and burnt in the shallow depression created near a shell crater. A few days later they were discovered by a detachment of the Red Army.

The British captured the eye-

witnesses from the bunker. The reconstruction of the last days of the Third Reich which flowed from them became the basis of a report to the military commanders of the city and eventually led to Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper's famous book on the events.

The conclusive evidence about the corpses was held by the Americans and the Russians. In the case of Hitler, the Russians claimed that they had captured his body while the Americans had two bodies and two dental workers.

For years the Russians were coy about what they had found. Stalin refused to reveal what they knew but in 1968 Mr Lev Bezymensky, a Russian journalist and former intelligence officer, spelt out the findings in a book published in the West.

The bodies of Hitler and Braun, discovered by members of Smersh, Russian counter-intelligence, were examined in an autopsy. Both bodies were badly burnt and dental evidence was crucial to identification in both cases.

Professor Sognnaes interviewed the two dental workers who now live in West Germany after being held prisoner by the Russians for ten years. He

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# Stress hits teachers throughout the world

Professor David Martin, vice-president of the society, said: "This is really positive. It really is shocking that young people have been arriving in the country never having used the Prayer Book. What we are hoping is that they give the Prayer Book full parity with the new book in every college."



# Councils accused of neglecting duty to disabled

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Five councils are under investigation for refusing to provide services to disabled residents, after complaints to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, that they are breaking the law.

Permission is being sought from the Attorney General to take Mr Jenkin to court for not using his default powers against other local authorities which have introduced blanket policies to stop providing services under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

The investigations and possible legal action will be raised in the Commons today during an Opposition supply debate on the International Year of Disabled People.

The Opposition motion calls on the Government to initiate discussions with relevant organisations to produce a programme of action to maintain the impact of the international year after 1981.

Action against local authorities who refuse to provide services required under the Act comes after 14 disability organisations combined to monitor any effects of spending cuts on disabled people. The Act requires councils to identify disabled residents and provide them with specified services.

More than 600 cases have been investigated under the new project and most have been resolved when the attention of local authorities was drawn to their legal obligations. But some have continued to act in what the charities have been advised is an illegal manner.

Some have refused to assess need, others have accepted a need but failed to provide a service, and some have withdrawn services.

So far, eight councils have

been referred to Mr Jenkin for not providing services under the Act, and he has agreed to institute inquiries in five cases. They range from the refusal to provide holidays for disabled people in Oxfordshire and Brent, to the withdrawal of home helps in West Sussex and telephone rebates in Northumberland.

Gwynedd is also to be investigated for failing to supply meals on wheels.

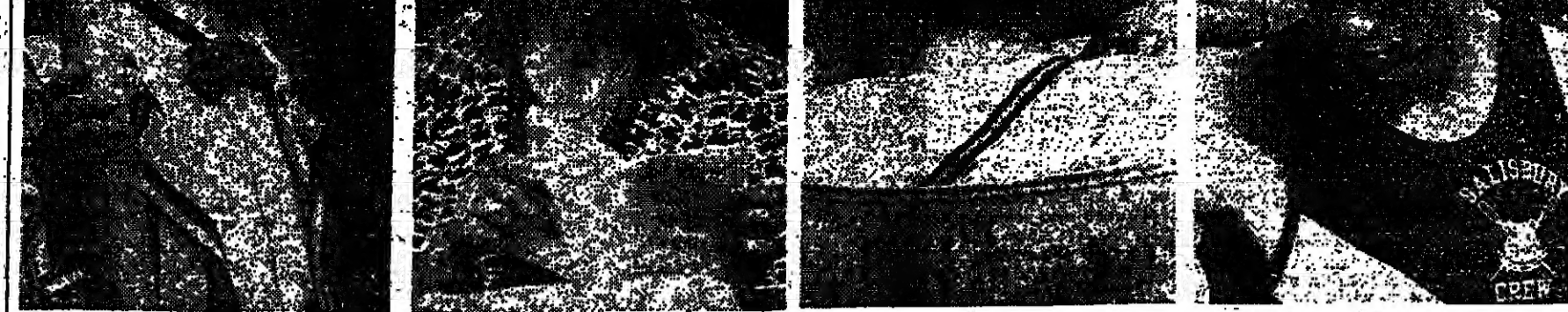
No decision has yet been reached on one of the remaining cases, but Mr Jenkin has refused to act in the other two on the ground that the individuals named are not willing to be named.

Mr Jenkin has told the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (Radar), which is administering the monitoring project, that he can investigate the failure of an authority to meet the needs only of a particular, named individual.

Radar has been advised that Mr Jenkin's decision amounts to a misdirection of his default powers, under which he can order a local authority to provide the services defined in the Act. They are seeking leave from the Attorney General to appeal to the divisional court for a ruling that Mr Jenkin has a general duty to ensure that councils fulfil their duty.

In a briefing prepared for MPs for today's debate, Radar says that if Mr Jenkin's decision is allowed to stand it will be impossible to stop local authorities continuing to break the law when the complainants want to remain anonymous.

Many disabled people do not want to be identified, the briefing says, because they are receiving other services from their councils and do not want to endanger those.



Tradition, style, civility, practicality: Spectators and competitors sporting a wide range of headgear on the opening day of the Henley Royal Regatta.

## Cuts in the universities

# 20,000 fewer places for students by 1985

By Diana Geddes and Frances Gibb

Universities are to have their grant cut by an average of 17 per cent over the next three years, and their number of students and EEC students cut by 7.5 per cent, or 20,000 places, over the next four years. That is made clear in the figures announced by the Government yesterday.

The cuts are highly selective. Seven universities will lose more than a quarter of their grant and between 14 per cent and 30 per cent of their home and EEC students. Four of those seven are former colleges of advanced technology. They are Salford, Aston, Bradford, and Surrey.

However, two other technological universities, Bath and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, are the only institutions, other than the two postgraduate business schools, whose home and EEC students numbers will increase. Overall, the University Grants Committee plans a slight increase of numbers in science and technology.

The table is based on figures released by the Government and the committee yesterday. However, great care should be taken in its interpretation. The home and EEC student figures for 1979-80 are the committee's target figures for that year, not actual numbers. Many universities exceeded their targets, with the result that their planned loss of students is greater than indicated.

The grants committee says that the expected loss in universities' income of 11 to 15 per cent between 1983-84 and 1985-86 is attributable to the effect of the Government's full fees policy for overseas students and the cut in grants for home and EEC students, means that the present level of home and EEC student numbers cannot be maintained.

A reduction in home and EEC student numbers of about 5 per cent by 1983-84 or 1984-85 over 1979-80 levels, had been assumed, the committee says. However, because there are some 9,000 more students in universities than had been allowed for by the Government, the actual drop will be 7.5 per cent, representing 20,000 places.

The difference between the targeted loss and real loss of students in some universities is substantial. Stirling, for example, is to suffer a loss of only 18 per cent according to the target figures, but a 27 per cent drop from its actual present numbers. Bradford says it will have to cut its home students by 25 per cent, not the 19 per cent given by the committee.

The changes in grant level in the table are based on updated estimates of the current year's grant (calculated by *The Times*) according to a formula suggested by the committee. They are rough estimates, as each university's grant is composed of different elements which have to be updated in different ways to bring them to current price levels and make them comparable to the grant figures given by the committee for the next three academic years.

According to *The Times*'s calculations, the biggest propor-

tionate grant loss over the next three years will be suffered by Salford (44 per cent), Keele (34 per cent), Bradford (33 per cent), and Aston (31 per cent). They are all also due to lose a large proportion of their home students.

However, some institutions which are due to lose a relatively small number of students, or none at all, are also to lose a substantial amount of grant. The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, for example, is to have its grant cut by 30 per cent, while its home student numbers are due to increase. Manchester Business School is to lose 24 per cent of its grant, while its home students are due to increase by more than 40 per cent (from a very small base).

Part, but by no means all, of those differences can be explained in relation to the proportion of overseas students at a particular institution. The loss of grant shown in the grants committee's figures is attributable to the cuts in respect of both home and overseas students, but institutions will be able to recoup some of the loss due to overseas students in the form of fees.

The total loss of grant (as opposed to income) for all universities over the next three academic years is about 17 per cent. That is made up of a cut of about 9 per cent in home students, per cent in overseas students, per cent in respect of the EEC, and out of the grant to "assist in the adaptation of the system to a lower level of funding", and the remaining 6 per cent or so being the last part of the cut in respect of overseas students.

The committee's recommendations for changes in the pattern of subject provision in the university system as a whole are expected to lead to a slight shift of students away from the arts and into science and medicine, so that arts will account for 48 per cent of all students, sciences 42 per cent, and medicine 10 per cent, instead of the 1979-80 pattern of 50:41:9.

London, Much of the advice is extraordinarily specific. London takes up a fifth of the total grant for universities but is due to lose 4 per cent of its students, about 17 per cent of its grant.

The committee recommends "some rationalizing" of provision in classics, history of art, drama, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish; maintenance of student numbers in archaeology, ancient Egyptian languages, Egyptology and Sanskrit, Dutch, Finnish, Hungarian, Scandinavian languages, social anthropology, social administration, nursing, nutrition, and the physical sciences; a decrease in numbers in the biological sciences, pharmacy, and architecture; and a slight increase in engineering and technology.

The university, which is considering the proposals of the Swinerton-Dyer committee on the reorganization of its non-medical provision, did not wish to comment on the grants committee's letter yesterday. The committee makes no comment on the proposals for the amalgamation of any colleges, saying that the distribution of students among the schools was

a matter entirely for the university itself.

Oxford: The proposals were not unexpected, said the university can cope, although it will not be easy, Dr A. J. Dorey, the registrar, said.

Cambridge: Dr Ian Nicol, secretary general, said: "We are not as desperately unhappy as some will be; but we are not positively grumpy either." Cuts had been asked for on the arts side, including social sciences. But the university has been asked to maintain anthropology, Hungarian, ancient Egyptian languages, Egyptology and Sanskrit.

Kent: Dr David Ingram, the vice-chancellor, said his first reaction was that the cuts were not too unreasonable, given that there had to be cuts. Kent has to reconsider its drama degree course, but it is advised to increase substantially in physical sciences and engineering and mathematics.

Bristol: History of art department to close, and talks to be held with Bath university on architecture courses, with a view to cuts. Russian is to be increased. Generally, arts and social studies are to be cut but within social studies, social work is to be maintained. A slight cut is recommended in material sciences, and an increase in physical sciences.

A spokesman said: "We did

not feel we would emerge unscathed and we feel these proposals are not too bad for us, although we are concerned about the university system as a whole."

Brunel, Uxbridge, Middlesex: "Slightly worse than average", was the reaction from Professor Geoffrey Bond, the vice-principal. The university has been advised to reduce students substantially in social sciences, which probably means up to one third, or 760, he said. Russian and the postgraduate education course will be phased out. There is also to be some reduction in biological sciences.

Brunel is to maintain physical sciences, including engineering, and the grants committee has asked for an increase in mathematical sciences. Students are being cut by over 10 per cent in reality, because Brunel is merging with Shoreditch College of Education.

Keele, Staffordshire: The cuts are to be confined in the arts and social sciences, with emphasis on the latter. The university has more than 2,000 arts and social sciences students, more than 600 science students. Russian is likely to go. The four-year courses, on which half the students are enrolled, are to be looked at from the point of view of the first foundation course. Mr Brindley, director of information services, said: "The cuts are

far worse than we feared." Aston, Birmingham: The cuts were "incomprehensible," Dr Frederick Crawford, the vice-chancellor said, because Aston had the best record in the country for graduate employment. Over three years it would lose 1,000 of its 4,500 students. The rapidity of the cuts was so great that only early retirement, mobility incentive schemes or redundancy payments could increase the turnover to reach the necessary levels.

Essex: The grants committee seems to envisage reversal of the university's 60:40 balance between arts and sciences, a spokesman said. There will be a significant decrease in the numbers of arts students (about 13 per cent), a smaller decrease in social studies students and a substantial increase, about 20 per cent, in physical and mathematical sciences.

A casualty seems likely to be biological sciences. Salford: Mr Edward Parker, pro-vice-chancellor, said: "We are shocked, appalled and dismayed. And we hope to be able to convince the grants committee of the error of this set of decisions. They are only temporary, and we are certainly intended to fight them."

Hull: Sir Roy Marshall, the vice-chancellor, said his reaction was consternation and anger. He estimated that if the cuts went through, the university would have to shed between 100 and 120 of its 500 academics. "But we plan to use every means at our disposal to get this manifest injustice corrected."

Stirling: Sir Kenneth Alexander, the vice-chancellor, said that if carried out, the cuts would severely damage the effectiveness of the university's work. Applications for places at Stirling had increased by more than a third last year, an increase greatly in excess of the national average.

Manchester Institute of Science and Technology: Professor Robert Hazeldine, the vice-chancellor, said he thought that they had been treated quite fairly. Most of the grant loss was in respect of overseas students, some of which could be made up in increased fees.

Weak vice-chancellor: John Brindley, the vice-chancellor, described the cuts as colossal and said they would mean large-scale redundancies. He envisaged the loss of one in four staff, a total of 100 over three years.

The university would seek a meeting with the grants committee in the time-scale given. The university faced a 50 per cent reduction in science students, which meant a cut of 900, and a 10 per cent reduction in arts.

Cuts could not be made across the board and there would have to be closures. Departments under threat included pharmacy, mathematical sciences and medical sciences. "This last is a particular blow as we have been doing a great deal of valuable cancer research, in areas such as chemotherapy."

The university had been told to concentrate on its modern languages centre, maintain its European studies and its human philosophy etc studies and humanities.

## How the grants are to be trimmed

Universities ranked according to % of Home students	Home & EEC Students			Grant £m		approx % change 79/80
	1979/80	1983/84 or 84/85	% change	1980/81 (est)	1983/84	
Salford	3,940	2,750	-30	15.31	8.59	-44
Aston	4,470	3,640	-22	14.39	9.86	-31
Bradford	4,360	3,530	-19	14.45	9.84	-33
Stirling	2,470	2,020	-18	9.99	5.08	-27
Keele	2,850	2,320	-19	7.57	5.64	-24
Hull	5,870	4,200	-17	11.44	7.19	-20
Surrey	2,880	2,470	-14	11.81	8.78	-26
Heriot-Watt	2,430	2,120	-13	8.16	7.09	-13
Kent	3,430	3,180	-7	8.44	6.84	-21
St Andrews	3,110	2,880	-7	9.24	7.51	-19
Lancaster	4,210	3,920	-7	10.32	8.88	-16
Sussex	3,880	3,710	-5	11.67	9.21	-21
City	2,130	2,020	-5	10.31	8.24	-20
Reading	5,030	4,770	-5	15.00	12.66	-16
Aberdeen	5,140	4,940	-4	19.75	15.19	-23
Essex	2,240	2,160	-4	6.88	5.47	-20
Strathclyde	5,790	5,540	-4	17.90	14.69	-18
London	33,510	32,220	-4	200	165.03	-17
Bristol	6,650	6,390	-4	23.85	19.43	-16
Nottingham	6,380	6,150	-4	21.39	18.36	-14
Newcastle	6,880	6,600	-4	23.97	20.85	-13
Durham	4,530	4,360	-4	12.93	11.80	-10
Oxford	10,700	10,410	-3	34.00	29.74	-13
Glasgow	9,100	8,810	-3	33.08	28.56	-11
E. Anglia	3,760	3,640	-3	11.25	10.28	-9
Leicester	4,340	4,200	-3	13.12	11.95	-9
Loughborough	4,670	4,550	-3	13.06	11.98	-8
Exeter	4,690	4,500	-2	12.21	9.69	-21
Manchester	9,930	9,710	-2	38.20	31.93	-16
Liverpool	7,080	6,910	-2	31.18	26.13	-16
Leeds	9,490	9,270	-2	33.93	28.72	-15
Cardiff	10,490	10,280	-2	32.27	28.91	-10
Warwick	4,600	4,450	-1	13.17	11.23	-15
Brunel	2,460	2,470	0	11.14	8.99	-19
Birmingham	7,750	7,770	0	30.81	25.89	-17
Univ of Wales	17,330	16,130	-0	67.20	47.67	-17
Dundee	2,460	2,490	0	12.64	10.53	-17
Sheffield	6,880	6,880	0	25.40	21.72	-14
Southampton	5,590	5,590	0	18.91	16.80	-12
Edinburgh	8,830	8,840	0	33.81	30.20	-11
York	3,100	3,090	0	7.48	7.02	-6
Bath	3,180	3,280	+2	9.38	8.69	-7
UMIST	2,790	2,980	+7	15.94	11.08	-30
Manchester						
Bus. School	120	170	+42	1.14	0.87	-24
London Grad Sch						
of Bus Studies	170	290	+70	1.13	1.49	+31
TOTAL GB	280,870	248,720	-4,797.18	808.07	-17	
1980/81 grant figures are updated to current prices; and are only estimates.						

## £40,929 for attic letters

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The desirability of being descended from the right ancestors was underlined at Phillips yesterday when the contents of some dusty boxes found in the attic by a collateral descendant of the first Lord Sheffield were sold for £40,929. The boxes contained an archive of letters and documents relating to the friends and hobbies of Lord Sheffield (1725-1821).

The most expensive lot comprised some 400 letters and documents relating to the long friendship between Lord Sheffield and the first Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Sandwich, who was the son of the prime minister and an ardent philhellene.

They were bought by a Greek shipping company in conjunction with the Library Society of Gifu, Quarrich, the London dealers who often buy for the British Library, secured several important lots: at £4,000 (estimate £2,000-£5,000) an archive of more than 1,500 letters addressed to Lord Sheffield and his wife by famous contemporaries; at £2,400 (estimate £1,500-£2,000) for a group of letters from Frederick North to his sister, Anne, Lady Sheffield, and her husband, and at £1,800 (estimate £1,000-£2,000) for an archive of papers relating to the North Devonshire Legion of Volunteers.

At Christie's French furniture and tapestries attracted exceptionally strong bidding; the

French dealers and collectors are notoriously erratic in the market, and a little Louis XV bureau-plat, with mounts, of particular elegance and a nicely shaped top, sold to an English resident at £30,000. It had, passed through Sotheby's in 1954 at only £2,300 and Christie's had been suggesting a price of between £40,000 and £60,000.

Lord Rothschild, whose musings on the investment side of collecting attracted attention in our columns some weeks ago, was provided with a new statistic to consider. A pair of Louis XVI ormolu-mounted ivory vases, which he sold at Christie's in 1970 for £7,350, reappeared yesterday and were bid to £36,000. One lid was missing when he sold them and had now been replaced in replica.

At a sale held by Sotheby's in South Africa on Wednesday, twentieth century South African art went through the roof. The sale had snob appeal. With 28 lots from the collection of the late Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone. The most expensive items were all from her collection. An Anton van Wouw bronze of a Miner with a machine drill sold for 70,000 rand (estimate 25,000-35,000) or £40,912, an auction record for any South African work of art.

## Life jail for Libyan

From Our Correspondent, Southampton

Hosni Farhat, aged 33, a Libyan airline clerk, was jailed for life yesterday. He was found guilty at Winchester Crown Court of four charges of attempted murder.

Farhat put rat poison in a packet of fish peanuts in an attempt to kill a fellow-Libyan, Farag Ghazala, his English wife, Heather, and their children, Karim, aged eight, and Soad, aged seven.

The family, who live in Portsmouth, had refused the orders of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to return to Libya by June last year.

## Judge rebukes editors

The editors of three Scottish newspapers were admonished by a High Court judge in Glasgow yesterday for contempt of court in reports concerning the trial of 11 men accused of raising guns and ammunition on behalf of the Ulster Volunteer Force.

The trial was halted in its third day on Wednesday when defence counsel submitted that newspaper reports concerning a witness might unfairly influence the jury.

The editors, Mr Eric Mackay of *The Scotsman*, Mr Arnold Kemp of *The Glasgow Herald* and Mr Bernard Vickers of the *Daily Record*, were summoned to appear before a trial judge, Lord Ross yesterday morning.

He ruled that although the editors had acted in good faith, contempt of court had been committed in reports of the second day of the trial. He hoped the case would "have sounded a warning" that during a trial the greatest care had to be taken about what was reported.

## Fewer postal delays

By Bill Johnston

The number of complaints to the Post Office Users National Council about postal delays was 721 over the past year, about one-third the number submitted the previous year.

In the same period the complaints about telephone bills almost doubled, to 6,408. The figures are contained in the council's annual report, published yesterday. The report acknowledges that in the year more mail was delivered on time and that telephone waiting times were reduced. But it emphasises that there is still some way to go before

## COUNCIL IS DEFIANT OVER CUTS

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

The Lothian regional council yesterday refused to reduce its budget despite a threat from Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, to cut its rate support grant by £53m.

The Labour-controlled council is one of seven asked by Mr Younger to submit proposals for reducing their budgets, which he described as excessive and unreasonable. Yesterday the council voted by 24 to 21 that its spending proposals were correct and that it would not consider any cuts.

Councillor John Crichton, convenor of the council, said the Labour group was elected on a programme of social and economic development, and would be made redundant if they obeyed the Government. Councillor Brian Meek, leader of the Conservative group on the council, gave a warning that there were no soft options left. He said the region was carrying far too many staff and that Mr Younger was willing to negotiate and had invited the council to do so.

Another member warned the council that it was not taking on a whim of a minister. "You are taking on a central plank of government policy with no chance of winning."

## Teenage delinquents are people too

Who can a teenager turn to if his parents seem to him only a source of trouble? What does a teenager do if no one cares what he does? There is no work, no money, nothing to do but drift in the streets. It is so easy to turn to crime when you're young, confused, broke and frustrated.

Our Family Centre gives teenagers somewhere to go and something to do, and offer guidance and counselling to help them through to adulthood. Help us to help them.

Send a donation to:  
Children's Fund,  
Church of England,  
Children's Society,  
Room 10,  
Old Town Hall,  
Rushmore Road,  
Reading RG1 4ED.  
National Office No. 514-0013

## BUILDER FREED AFTER APOLOGY

John Barrman, aged 43, a builder, earned his release from jail yesterday by apologising for burning down his £65,000 home after a quarrel with his wife.

He was imprisoned two months ago for breaching a court injunction barring him from burning down his home, but with his own hands at Epsford, Surrey.

Yesterday at the County Court in Guildford, Surrey, Judge Vick decided Mr Barrman had purged his contempt.



## Russia gets a brief respite from heatwave

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, July 2

A fall in temperature last night brought temporary relief from the prolonged heatwave that has engulfed Russia for the past two weeks. But by the afternoon the thermometer was rising again.

Yesterday President Brezhnev told Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, on a visit here, that the heatwave, which brought temperatures of over 90°F to much of the country, could have serious consequences for the Soviet grain harvest.

Over the weekend a trade union newspaper reported that lack of rain had affected the fodder crop in the fertile farming regions of Russia, resulting in much reduced yields of grass. This would force farmers to look elsewhere for animal feed and could severely hamper the Soviet Union's crash programme to increase the output of meat and milk.

Meanwhile, newspapers have been trying to quell widespread and alarmist rumours that the heat is causing industrial dislocations and uncontrollable fires and may still get worse. One paper specifically denied reports that the temperature would soon rise to a record-breaking 40°C. A spokesman for the Soviet meteorological office said the heat, caused by a mass of hot air from central Asia, would continue for some time but would gradually weaken.

In Moscow, where the thermometer again touched 30°C today, the paper said it was not likely to be hotter than 36°C this month—though that figure itself is virtually unprecedented in the Soviet capital.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Soft Drinks said lemonade factories had been working round the clock to satisfy the greatly increased demand. He said all holiday leave had been cancelled, labour reserves had been "mobilized", emergency production lines opened and factories were now turning out almost 20 million litres of lemonade a day—twice the normal average.

As Moscow sweltered in the unrelenting heat, doctors have been giving their considered opinions on how to keep cool and what to do. The main rule, one wrote portentously, was to wear light clothes, preferably of cotton and linen. People working outside should take special care and always wear a light sunhat. The doctor also said those suffering from heart diseases should move about as little as possible and keep out of the sun's rays.

His advice appears superfluous to the thousands who have been sitting in the Moscow parks in swimming costumes, and flocking into the Moscow river at the end of each day.

The big danger is now forest and peat fires, such as occurred all round Moscow after a hot, dry summer in 1972. Soviet papers have been warning people to be careful because of the increased fire risk throughout the country. Camp fires have been forbidden and the forestry service is now keeping a 24-hour firewatch.

Nevertheless, one paper reported a number of big fires recently. One in Siberia caused damage worth 9m roubles (£6m) and wooden houses had burnt down. Near Minsk a shed caught fire and more than 80 head of cattle were burnt to death.

Ironically in the Caucasus serious damage has been caused not by heat but by rain. Soviet television yesterday showed extensive damage to vineyards in Azerbaijan by torrential rainfall in the past few days. Thousands of acres have been flooded, irrigation canals broken, and losses amount to millions of roubles.

### BOMB DEATH

Guatemala City, July 2—A baggage handler was killed when a bomb exploded in a suitcase at Guatemala City airport minutes before the case was to be loaded on to a Miami-bound airliner. Señor Vinicio Cerezo, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party, a leading opponent of the Army-backed government, was a passenger on the airliner.

## Red Cross plea to Thais over trapped Vietnamese

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, July 2

Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross have appealed to the Thai Prime Minister's Office to give sanctuary to 358 Vietnamese trapped among hostile Cambodians on the Thai border and have asked for a meeting with General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister.

Red Cross appeals during the past six weeks have been rejected by security and military chiefs who said the safety of the Vietnamese was not Thailand's responsibility. One official said Thailand would resist all pressure to admit the Vietnamese, who had left their homeland at their own risk and who had bribed Vietnamese and Cambodian officials to get to the Thai border.

Among the refugees were large family groups and many women and children. The Red Cross said they were in jeopardy while surrounded by nearly 100,000 hostile Cambodians.

The Red Cross had an international mandate, to which Thailand was a party, to protect the lives of the 358 refugees, an official said. American authorities have promised to treat the Vietnamese group as an emergency so as

## Ship engine order gives Britain foothold in Japan

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, July 2

Rolls-Royce won a crucial contract from the Japanese Navy today, starting a trend under which all big Japanese warships are likely to be equipped with British-designed engines until the turn of the century.

Providing Britain with a firm foothold in Japan's potentially lucrative market for defence equipment, the Japan Defence Agency announced today that it had chosen Rolls-Royce and Kawasaki Heavy Industries as its Japanese partner.

"We have decided to use two Spey SMLA engines and two Olympus TM38 engines to power a new guided-missile destroyer under construction. The contract has been awarded to Rolls-Royce and Kawasaki Heavy Industries in the face of fierce competition from General Electric," a spokesman for the Japan Defence Agency said.

British Embassy spokesman here admitted that the initial order for the four engines will do little to offset Britain's £1,100m trade deficit with Japan this year. But he went on to point out that the significance of the contract lies in the fact that it has set the pattern for the future.

"This means that Britain has got its foot in the door. This contract will set the trend

under which all major Japanese warships, such as destroyers, guided-missile destroyers, escort vessels and cruisers, will be equipped with British-designed engines for the next 20 years," a spokesman for the British naval attaché explained.

Under Japan's medium-term defence plans the Japanese Navy is to be equipped with nine new guided-missile destroyers by 1986.

Japan's small class of 2,900-ton destroyers, known as the Hatsukuki series, is already equipped with the smaller British-designed Tyne gas turbine engines and Olympus engines.

"The Japanese were looking for an engine more powerful than the Tyne. The Spey comes between the Tyne and the Olympus and has proved to be the right engine for the new type of guided-missile destroyers. It means that all future destroyers will be equipped with British engines," a spokesman for the British Embassy told me.

Rolls-Royce plants in Britain will manufacture sections and parts of the engines. Other sections will be made and assembled under licence by Kawasaki.

At present, Rolls-Royce turbofan engines are in service in Japan's 72 trainers and 21 fighters and are manufactured under licence by Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries.

## Seoul drive for close Asean links

From David Watts  
Singapore, July 2

Fresh from his diplomatic coup as the first foreign head of state to visit President Reagan, President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea is busy cementing the second pillar of the country's foreign policy; its relations with the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean).

He is now on the third leg of a tour of Asean countries which marks the start of a more assertive policy taking Seoul into a wider regional area of interest.

The importance the Koreans attach to this diplomatic offensive can be gauged by the size of the delegation accompanying the President of 14 senior officials and four Cabinet ministers. A senior official travelling with him said that Seoul's new interest in South-East Asia as an area for increased trade and closer, diplomatic cooperation constituted "a very important, serious commitment".

Two-way trade between Asean and South Korea last year was valued at more than \$2,000m (£1,052m).

The Korean party has already visited Indonesia and Malaysia. Tomorrow the President leaves for Thailand. The tour will end with the Philippines. In each country the diplomatic aim has been to persuade the Asean countries that security in North-East and South-East Asia is interdependent and to appeal to them to assist efforts to persuade North Korea to open contacts with the South.

As an interim step towards President Chun's declared aim of the reunification of the two Koreas, Seoul is also seeking support for the seating of both countries at the United Nations. This has been promised by the countries already visited. The others are likely to follow suit.

President Chun has called on President Kim Il Sung of North Korea to meet him anywhere at any time for discussions. Today President Kim rejected that offer until there was a change of government in the South.

Though the Koreans are linking security in North-East Asia with that in the Asean area, little is being said publicly about the obvious implication of any South Korean commitment to help threatened Asean countries.

They view a refugee health scare as part of the same campaign. Thai officials announced yesterday that 17 cases of schistosomiasis, a disease transmitted by snails, has been diagnosed among refugees at a holding camp near the Cambodian border. They said the disease was contagious and could be fatal.

Their claim that the disease posed a potential public health problem for Thailand was disputed by Dr A. G. Rangarajan, Health Coordinator for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He said the disease could be quickly isolated and easily treated.

"The disease can spread where there is poor sanitation and where the snail host is present, but at refugee camps and in Western nations those conditions are not likely. The snail exists in Thailand but the disease has never been a problem."

## Bitter circulation war

# The battle of Trenton, 1981-style

From Michael Leapman, Trenton, New Jersey, July 2

## US-ISRAEL PLANE DEAL SUSPENDED BY REAGAN



Two titles struggling for supremacy.

The latter-day battle of Trenton is for the eyes and minds of 140,000 newspaper readers in this state capital of New Jersey, squeezed between the great cities of New York and Philadelphia.

It is being conducted with a frank malevolence on both sides and receives unusual attention nationally. There are not many such hard-fought press wars left in a country where most communities are now served by newspapers under a single ownership.

Accusations and black propaganda fly. There are charges that paper vending machines have been sabotaged and circulation figures falsified.

Piquancy is added by the identity of the biggest loser so far, the proud and powerful Washington Post Company. Mrs Katherine Graham, chairman of the board of the Post, is quoted as having called Trenton, "my Vietnam".

The tone of voice used in the contest can be judged by a full page advertisement for itself that the *Trentonian* printed last week. Its purpose was to point out that its rival the *Trenton Times* was printed in the morning but some readers did not get it delivered until late afternoon.

The other side hit back. "What annoys me in all the reports about our rivalry," said Mr Rem Reider, managing editor of the *Trenton Times*, "is that the *Trentonian* is always described as a lively tabloid. It's not lively. It's a boring tabloid. This is a livelier, better written paper."

Be that as it may, *The Times*, bought by the Washington Post Company in 1974, has been steadily losing ground to its rival, owned by the small Leger-Soll chain of New York. At the end of last year the *Trentonian* had a higher daily sale than the *Times* for the first time in competitive history. Both now sell a little over 65,500 a day.

There are those who see in this a cautionary tale for large newspaper publishers moving into small-town markets hoping to obliterate the competition. People at the *Trenton Times* now admit that when the *Washington Post* took them over, in the heady aftermath of that paper's Watergate triumph,

their assumptions about what the citizens of Trenton wanted to read were much too grandiose.

The idea was to turn the *Times* into the "Washington Post North", aiming for a readership of all over New Jersey with aggressive investigative features. The local circulation, it was felt, would take care of itself.

Reporters were turned loose to look into the murky side of life in New Jersey. If reputations are anything to go by, few states can boast of being murkier.

But not only did the expected new readers not materialize, the old ones began to drift away.

The *Trentonian*, meanwhile, was more than holding its own with solid if glamorous coverage of local affairs, meticulously reporting who went to what charity functions—the chicken-dinner circuit, as its detractors call it.

In the heat of the fight, insoucious about Mr Larry Kramer, executive editor of the *Times*, suggests that the *Trentonian* is less than rigorous about running stories critical of its advertisers, or of business in general.

He mentioned a case where handicapped people had demonstrated outside a large discount store because new security arrangements made it impossible for them to enter in wheelchairs.

The *Times* gave the story prominence but the *Trentonian* where the store happens to advertise made less of it. "To me it was a monument out of a molehill," said Mr Emil Slaboda, editor of the *Trentonian*. "Let's say we don't take cheap shots at anybody."

Not that they mind taking shots, cheap or otherwise, at the *Times*. They challenged their audited circulation figures for the period ending March 1980 and had them altered. At the same time, the four top circulation people of the *Times* were charged with fraud.

The *Trentonian* is a morning paper. The *Trenton Times* has been an afternoon paper but in its latest attempt to regain the lead is gradually shifting to a morning.

"It is a sweet fight and we are happy to be in it," Mr Padilla said. A far cry from Watergate.

## Stress hits teachers throughout the world

From Alan McGregor  
Geneva, July 2

Stress is becoming a serious occupational hazard for teachers in almost all countries, according to a study prepared by the International Labour Organisation, which describes it as a cause for alarm.

Research in Britain, Sweden and the United States indicates that up to 25 per cent of teachers face enough stress to affect their health.

In North America, the incidence of stress among teachers in large urban schools has produced a condition described by doctors as "burnout". They compare it with battle fatigue among soldiers.

The research shows that stress in the form of exhaustion, frustration and nervous tension, can lead to hypertension, ulcers, renal and heart disease and it can also affect the nervous system.

The study identifies violence, overcrowded classes, time-table pressure, low salaries, worry about career prospects and job insecurity as the principal causes of stress.

Violence, at its worst in urban areas and overcrowded schools, is most prevalent in the United States with up to 5 per cent of teachers victims of attacks—and in Latin America where kidnappings and assassinations of teachers have occurred.

Recommendations for attacking the problems will be drawn up at a meeting of teachers and government representatives to be held here later this year.

# The false economy of flying Economy.



## Other airlines' Economy Class Fares

WHAT YOU PAY*		WHAT YOU SAVE	
Dusseldorf	£65.50		£4
Cologne	£65.50		£4
Frankfurt	£81.50		£4.50
Zurich	£103.00		£5
Basle	£98.50		£5
Geneva	£98.50		£5
WHAT YOU GET		WHAT YOU LOSE	
Exclusive check-in desk		No special check-in desk	
Choose your seat at check-in		No seat selection on most flights	
Business-like environment of separate cabin		No separate cabin	
Special in-flight service with extra cabin staff		No preferential treatment	
Meals or high-quality snacks on all flights		No meals or snacks on some flights	
Drinks free		No free drinks	

If you want to save yourself four or five pounds to Germany or Switzerland, you could fly Economy Class with one of our competitors.

But just tot up what you're giving up.

We think you'll agree that your Economy measure has cost you rather a lot.

## British airways

We'll take more care of you.



\*Fares from London



# US and Peking 'want return' to the cold war

From Desha Trevisan, Sofia, July 2

The prime ministers of 10 member-states of Comecon, the Soviet bloc economic organization, began a three-day annual meeting in Sofia today, with Poland obviously a pre-occupying topic but other economic problems connected with closer integration high on the agenda.

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, is heading the Soviet delegation. The Polish delegation led by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, includes Mr Tadeusz Grabski, a hardline Politburo member who, until recently, was in charge of economic affairs in the Central Committee.

The meeting was addressed by Mr Grisha Filipov, the new Bulgarian Prime Minister. He said that it was held in a difficult international situation in which the "aggressive forces" of the United States with the help of "Peking's hegemonism" were attempting to bring the world back to the cold war era.

In contrast, he said, the socialist countries were striving for détente. He singled out President Brezhnev as the "most ardent champion of peace".

The meeting is expected to attempt to bring about a closer coordination of economic plans as well as take some initiative over Poland's pressing economic problems. There is, however, as yet, no clear indication that something more tangible may emerge in the way of joint Comecon assistance to Poland.

Mr Gyorgy Lavar, the Hungarian Prime Minister, called for greater efficiency in Comecon work and less bureaucracy as well as for agreement on a programme to assist all member-countries in their energy and raw materials problems. He said

that the growth rate in Hungary was slowing down and that in the present economic international situation there would be no increases in living standards.

He urged the Comecon countries to use their energy and raw materials resources more rationally and to cooperate more closely in modernizing industry and developing agriculture.

The prime ministers are expected to discuss the economic integration programme for the year to 1985 and possibly until 1990. The decreasing industrial growth rate is hindering the programme and the Polish crisis has added to the difficulties.

Poland's inability to keep up agreed deliveries has already caused disruption in countries, which depend heavily on the import of Polish coal and other materials. This has also aggravated the problems of assisting the poorer members, Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam.

Last year's Comecon meeting failed to reach agreement on a number of problems especially those related to energy and raw materials. The Soviet Union is the main supplier of oil and raw materials to Comecon members. It pledged to maintain oil deliveries to member-countries at a rate of 80 million tonnes a year for five years. But, all member-countries need to go beyond that and already during last year's session in Prague, the Soviet Union made it clear that this is the limit unless its East European allies invest in oil extraction and mining within the Soviet Union.

Another sensitive problem is that of price and quality. Russia's allies are paying about half the world market price for Soviet oil.

## Poles told they face economic catastrophe

Warsaw, July 2.—As Poland prepared for a visit by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, the Polish Sejm (Parliament) heard today that the country was facing catastrophe unless there was an urgent economic reform.

It was not clear when Mr Gromyko's visit was announced several days ago, would come. Official sources have been saying it would probably be on Friday afternoon. He is expected to report back to Moscow on developments here over the past few weeks, which saw many new people elected for the coming Communist Party congress.

In the Sejm Mr Zbigniew Mader, a Deputy Prime Minister, said how bad the economic situation is.

Industrial production in January was down 10 per cent on last year and in May it dropped 18 per cent. If this continued national income would drop by 15 per cent this year, Mr Mader said the country would need between three and five years to recover from the crisis. The reduction of its \$26,000m (about £13,000m) foreign debt would not start until the next five-year plan, beginning in 1986.

The seriousness of the situation was underlined by the Polish news agency PAP, which said today that recent predictions that the crisis had bottomed out had proved wrong. "Empty shelves in the shops, coupons for which there are no goods and a shortage of cigarettes and petrol are new phenomena which emerged at the end of the first half of the year."

The Polish National Bank was quoted as saying there was a huge imbalance between wages and the supply of goods. While the total wage bill had risen 25 per cent in the first six months over the same period last year, employment had fallen 0.3 per cent. Industrial production fell 12 per cent and labour productivity also dropped.

Mr Gromyko's visit is being seen in a generally optimistic light in Warsaw. Western diplomats said foreign policy was one area where Poland had no quarrels with Moscow. The visit was described as brief and friendly and the fact that it was announced well in advance suggested it would be successful.

Although Moscow has expressed concern that so many of the old guard were swept away in elections, the most democratic under Communist rule, the fact that most of the leaders were returned is likely to reassure the Kremlin, diplomats said. Mr Leszek Moczulski, the main defendant in the trial of four dissidents, pleaded guilty to charges of working to overthrow the state and cut Poland's links with Moscow. (UPI reports from Moscow.) The trial, Poland's first major political one since the labour unrest began last year, reopened today.

An unidentified number of Poles suspected of having deserted Soviet soldiers' graves and monuments have been arrested. The Polish news agency reported tonight (AP reports).



'It fits! It fits!'

## Deng gives China smiling face

From David Bonavia, Peking, July 2

Huge black limousines with curtained windows have been racing around Peking streets for the past few days, marking the most important political event since the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976, and some foreign observers believe since the communist victory in 1949.

Hua Guofeng, Mao's choice as Chairman of the Communist Party, has been humbly demoted, and power at the top level is now more firmly than ever in the hands of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the leading Deputy Chairman, whose policies are bringing China into an ever closer relationship with the Western world.

The new party Chairman, Mr Hu Yaobang, is a close collaborator of Mr Deng, and Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, and now a Deputy Chairman. Economic planning, foreign affairs, culture, and agriculture are completely controlled by Mr Deng's supporters. Only in the armed forces are there still lingering currents of opposition to some of his policies which throw doubt on the political halo which the military have traditionally worn.

The China of the 1980s is undergoing an amazing transformation, unthinkable only five years ago.

Young people are opening private businesses. Peasants are encouraged to pursue something close to private farming. Consumer goods and foodstuffs are becoming more plentiful, though still more expensive. And Western cultural influences, despite dire warnings from some political hard-liners, are spreading from Shakespeare to Coca-Cola.

This transformation is the result of five years' hard work and tough political infighting by Mr Deng. It is unlikely that anyone else could have carried it off. And as long as he remains fit and vigorous, Mr Deng may hope to see his own version of New China developed, and continued by the team of collaborators he has built up around himself.

Mr Deng, who is 76, plans to remain at the helm until 1985, when he has said in the past he would like to retire. Though he has kept up some advisory role in the party and Government, the men he has brought on are not young—mostly in their sixties—but that is not considered old for a political leader in China.

Twenty years, was a long

time for nearly a quarter of mankind to put up with the start of what promises to be an unusually busy if short session.

Normally deputies at this time of year are preparing for a long holiday. This year, however, they will have much less time for acquiring a suntan as the Socialist Government begins introducing the legislation for its reform programme.

The real business of the session is due to be announced on Wednesday next week after the Cabinet meeting and will probably be outlined in a message from President Mitterrand which is to be read to the National Assembly that day by the Prime Minister.

The opening of this seventh Parliament of the Fifth Republic was given over to the usual trappings of a State of the Nation address. Mr Mitterrand, the Socialist deputy for the Isère, was duly elected President of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly will, however, have to work hard to keep to its timetable and Mitterrand, in his presidential address, made it clear that the Socialist Government intended to play a much fuller role than in the past.

It would be necessary, he said, for Parliament to give the means to control government action and to develop methods of investigation which it could use. This was a job which, he said, would involve the National Assembly in every sector of French thought playing its part, "which was not the case in preceding parliaments".

There is only one subject of conversation for the large number of foreign journalists in Moscow at the moment: coupons. Without warning, the Soviet authorities have suddenly refused to give journalists the convertible "currency" coupons needed to buy daily necessities in the one shop providing a reasonable range of food, meat and imported drinks.

"You can forget Afghanistan, Poland, arms control talks. This is serious," a senior correspondent said. He, like others, only learnt of the change when the Bank for Foreign Trade yesterday refused to issue him the little pink books of what looks like monopoly money.

There is one small food shop for tourists with a meagre selection of groceries at about double the price. This accepts only foreign currency. Soviet law forbids resident foreigners from drawing hard currency out of the bank unless they are leaving the country. It looks as though people will now have to buy their cigarettes with credit cards or travellers' cheques.

The reaction has naturally been one of outrage. Councils of war have been drawn up. It is all very well to write about the increasingly poor selection of food and point out how much time Russians waste standing in queues, but it is less amusing to find yourself in the same boat.

The Russians have been trying to get rid of the coupon system for years, because these valuable little passports to Western-style living, have been finding their way into Soviet pockets.

Twenty years ago "diplomatic" groceries did not exist. A corner of the GUM store was cordoned off for foreigners.

## Court allows transfer of Iranian assets

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, July 2

The United States Supreme Court today upheld the right of former President Carter to transfer Iranian assets in exchange for the release of 52 American hostages last January.

The unanimous ruling clears the way for the transfer of between \$3,000m and \$4,000m (£1,500m-£2,000m) Iranian assets by the July 19 deadline agreed between America and Iran at the time of the hostages' release.

The court ruled that Mr Carter had the power to grant American companies pursuing claims against Iran in United States courts so that Iran's assets could be returned. These claims will now be settled by an international tribunal.

An opinion by Mr Justice William Rehnquist, the court based its ruling on the power of the President to settle claims of American citizens against foreign governments. It noted that President Carter had acted fully within his authority under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

The law empowers the President to regulate or prevent any transfer with respect to foreign property when he has declared a national emergency. "In our view," Mr Rehnquist said, the President had the authority under the International Emergency Powers Act. Congress had implicitly approved the President's actions. We considered the President had the authority.

According to a Treasury spokesman just over \$2,000m of assets are held in the form of bank deposits, cash deposits have earned about \$20m in interest since they were frozen. An additional \$1,000m to \$2,000m is in the form of property owned by Iranian aircraft and non-monetary assets.

The bank deposit will be transferred to the Federal Reserve Bank during the next two weeks before being dispatched to Iran.

In order to secure the release of the American hostages who were held in Iran for 444 days, President Carter agreed to a quillity about 450 private suits for claims against Iran. Many of the companies with claims against Iran challenged the agreement, arguing that the President did not have the power to prevent them from suing in American courts.

Under last January's agreement, Iran undertook to set aside \$1,000m when its assets were returned to pay off any American claims. The international tribunal may award.

Iran executions: The ruling Islamic revolutionaries today executed 17 radicals in Iran and announced the arrests of 50 others in raids. Iranian radio announced (UPI reports) Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, told families of the 74 victims of Sunday's explosion at the Islamic Republic Party headquarters that Iran considered itself "at war with the United States".

## Setback to holiday hopes of French deputies

From Ian Murray, Paris, July 2

The new French Parliament met for the first time today at the start of what promises to be an unusually busy if short session.

Normally deputies at this time of year are preparing for a long holiday. This year, however, they will have much less time for acquiring a suntan as the Socialist Government begins introducing the legislation for its reform programme.

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## Grisly mass murder in Hollywood

Los Angeles, July 2.—Four people were battered to death in a grisly mass murder in the expensive Hollywood Hills area, while neighbours ignored screams for help.

A fifth victim at the scene, a 25-year-old woman, lay with neck and head wounds for 12 hours before a neighbour finally called the police late yesterday.

The house is in the wooded Laurel Canyon area, where country-style homes cost around \$1m (£500,000). The home is only a short distance from where Sharon Tate and four others were murdered by members of Charles Manson's hippie cult in 1969. Police said there was so much blood in the house they would not even speculate on how the victims died.

A neighbour said he heard a man screaming, but added that loud parties and screams were often heard in that area.

It was 12 hours later before another neighbour noticed the front door of the house was open and went in. A body of a man was found in a downstairs bedroom of the three-storey house, a woman's body was in the living room and the bodies of a man and a woman were in an upstairs bedroom.

Police said they would discard any possibility regarding drugs, robbery or anything else in establishing a motive.

The injured woman underwent a four-hour operation and was said by a hospital spokesman today to be in a critical condition. Part of one of the woman's fingers had been cut off, the spokesman said, as if she had tried to stop an axe blow.

A man taken from the murder scene yesterday in handcuffs released. Police said they had obtained some information from the man, but said the man was not a suspect—Reuters.

## Hunger striker's daughter on American television

From Michael Leppman, New York, July 2

Bernadette McDonnell, the 11-year-old daughter of a hunger striker at the Maze prison near Belfast, was interviewed on American television yesterday morning. She urged Americans to write to President Reagan to put pressure on Mrs Thatcher to solve the Irish question. "Margaret Thatcher will have to do something," she said.

Her remark came at the end of the interview and was the only controversial statement she made. She and an 11-year-old Ulster Protestant, Keith Dixon, talked mostly about what it is like to be a child today in Northern Ireland.

They are among 160 children from the province visiting America for six weeks under a scheme organized by the Gaelic Society in Greenwood Lake, New Jersey. After their arrival

had been reported in the press at the weekend, the producers of *Good Morning America*, the nationally networked breakfast programme of the American Broadcasting Company, decided to interview two of them.

Miss McDonnell was chosen because she was a hunger striker's daughter, according to Mr John Goodman, associate producer of the programme. Viewers were informed of this halfway through the programme when she said that the man she most admired in the world was her father.

It was not a political interview, Mr Goodman said. "It was just a slice of life in Northern Ireland for the American people. By talking to the kids we tried to explain to an American audience what it is like to grow up in that environment."

## Diego Garcia rejects cash offer by Britain

By Denis Taylor

Four days of talks on extra compensation for the islanders displaced from Diego Garcia and other parts of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius ended without agreement in London last night.

The Foreign Office said in a statement that it regretted that it had not been possible to reach agreement on this occasion. The talks, which were said to have been adjourned, would be continued with the Government of Mauritius through diplomatic channels.

Mr Rakeshwar Puri, the Mauritius Minister of Social Security, told *The Times*: "We feel there has been a total failure of the talks".

At the same time, the minister, who led the all-party delegation from Mauritius, welcomed the offer to continue discussions through diplomatic channels.

Mauritius had asked for £8m compensation in addition to the £650,000 agreed in 1973. The

British Government reaffirmed its offer of £1,250,000, and a further £300,000 in aid, to achieve a final settlement.

Negotiations on compensation to evacuees from Diego Garcia and other islands of the Chagos Archipelago began 10 years ago. The issues have become much wider than that of cash. Government and opposition politicians in Port Louis, the Mauritius capital, are calling for the return of the islands, which were administered as a dependency of Mauritius until 1965.

The United States has a defence facility on Diego Garcia. This demand is linked with calls for the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean. The archipelago was detached from Mauritius, to become part of the British Indian Ocean Territory. A sum of £3m was paid to the then colony of Mauritius for loss of sovereignty.



A woman and her two children, shot by Ugandan soldiers, mourned by relatives at the Ombachi mission. The photograph was taken by Mr Lars Astrom, a Swedish Red Cross worker.

## Uganda Army blamed for massacre

Kampala, July 2.—Eyewitnesses have confirmed that a small band of Ugandan soldiers ran through a Roman Catholic mission in a north-western Uganda 10 days ago and massacred 60 unarmed civilians.

Government sources said today that statements made by eyewitnesses in the course of a police inquiry, which is still under way, blamed a group of soldiers led by a lieutenant for the killing of the civilians and the wounding of 40 others.

The massacre took place at the Ombachi mission run by the Verona Fathers in the West Nile district of the country. Several thousand refugees had sought shelter at the mission, which had been declared a Red Cross protected area, to escape fighting between Ugandan troops and guerrillas from the Northern Regiment.

The Northern Regiment, including some remnants of the

Army of the ousted dictator Idi Amin, is one of several guerrilla groups trying to overthrow the Government of President Milton Obote.

Government sources quoted the witnesses as saying that the notorious Major Gala, accused of raping nuns during Amin's rule, was being treated for wounds at the mission hours before the massacre. Major Gala and five other wounded guerrillas were taken from the mission by comrades from the Northern Regiment on the morning of the massacre.

In Stockholm, Mr Lars Astrom, the Red Cross' East Africa delegate, told a press conference today how Ugandan soldiers raided the Ombachi mission.

He said at least 22 people were killed, most of them young girls, when the soldiers opened fire on a storage room in which they were hiding.

"I saw one woman with a three-month-old baby with her head blown off in her arms," he said. "I was told a soldier accused her of being a spy and therefore her child was killed."

Mr Astrom said the trouble started when "uncontrollable elements from the Ugandan Army" plundered the city of Arua and many people fled to the Ombachi mission outside the city.

Meanwhile, the Kampala newspaper *Umunsi* today accused the Ugandan Government of violating human rights through illegal detentions and the torture of opposition party members.

"Many of these detainees have not seen light for six months. And for some even their relatives have no way of knowing whether they are still alive," the newspaper said.—AP and Agence France-Press.

## IN BRIEF

### Sindbad docks a week early

Hongkong.—Tim Severin of Britain, sailing by Arab dhow from Oman to China, following the route of the legendary Sindbad the Sailor, reached his journey's end a week ahead of time.

The 1,600-mile, last leg from Singapore to the mouth of the Pearl River took only 18 days. The dhow, its planks held together by cotton fibre, anchored until a tug from the Chinese navy arrived to guide it up river to Huangpu port in the southern China city of Canton. His 6,000-mile trip began on November 23.

### Birth-pill denial

Pretoria.—Mr James Gilliland, South Africa's Deputy Director General of Health, denied a London report that a controversial birth control drug depopulation was being used on black women without their knowledge. In Zimbabwe, it was reported that the Cabinet had decided to phase out use of the drug for safety reasons.

Karlsruhe.—The West German Supreme Court rejected the appeal of Kurt Lischka, the former Gestapo chief of Nazi-occupied France, serving a 10-year sentence for masterminding the wartime murders of 73,000 French Jews.

### Four months captive

Milan.—Kidnappers freed Signorina Tullia Kauten, aged 48, after holding her captive and chained to a bed since March 5. Her family paid a first ransom instalment of 441m lire (£190,000) on May 19 and another large sum on Monday.

### Briton appointed

Brussels.—Mr John Steele, Deputy Secretary at the Department of Industry, has been appointed director-general of the European Commission's transport department.

### Secrets for sale

The Hague.—Dick Griffioen, aged 29, a civilian employee of the Dutch Defence Ministry was sentenced to two years in prison for trying to sell state secrets to the Soviet Embassy to pay off his casino gambling debts.

## Man in the news

### New Yorker who sold Begin to the Israelis

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, July 2

The man responsible for selling the image of Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, during the recent election campaign was David Garth, a gregarious New York New York consultant, who was hired by the right-wing Likud, four months ago.

Before advising Mr Begin, Mr Garth, aged 51, had worked behind the scenes for personalities such as Mr Ed Koch, the Mayor of New York, President Herrera of Venezuela and Mr John Anderson, the unsuccessful third candidate in the last American presidential elections.

In the closing stages of the Israeli campaign, Mr Garth had daily meetings with Mr Begin and developed a strategy from a comprehensive series of 17 polls prepared by two Harvard graduates who were members of the staff he had based in Jerusalem's King David Hotel.

Among other findings, the polls showed that Mr Begin was three times more trusted by the Israeli public on issues of national defence and security than his Labour rival, Mr Shimon Peres, who used the services of Mr David Sawyer, another American consultant.

Our private polls quickly pinpointed how incorrect are some international opinions about Israeli attitudes," Mr Garth said today before flying back to New York to advise Mr Koch on how to win re-election. "It is often assumed that Mr Begin represents a minority, but his hawkishness is quite in tune with the national feeling."

The private polls were assessed in detail by Mr Garth and his young partner, Mr Zeev Fatah. It was found that on the economic question, Mr Begin lagged behind until the last days, while on personal popularity he always remained way ahead of Mr Peres.

The findings indicated that if the Labour Party had been led by Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Prime Minister, it would probably have won.

The Likud polls were taken every second day for the last 34 days of the campaign and



David Garth: Next job is to package a mayor.

were largely responsible for the growing confidence of Mr Begin and his relentless concentration on issues of national security.

They showed that the televised debate between Mr Begin and Mr Peres was scored as a dead heat by the public.

"The one issue that threatened the Likud was that of campaign violence," Mr Garth said. "The worst damage to Mr Begin was done by an Israeli television film on the violence which at one point intercut pictures of Likud supporters with those of Hitler's rallies."

This finding is the reason why senior Likud figures have been hinting that sweeping changes in the running of Israeli television can be expected if the coalition returns to power.

Labour's concentration on the issues of violence in a series of dramatic television commercials was made on the advice of Mr Sawyer, who previously worked for Senator Edward Kennedy in a number of his Senate election battles.

Mr Garth was first approached by the Israeli Labour Party two years ago but did not feel he could work successfully with Mr Peres.

The Likud approached him when its fortunes were at their nadir with the opinion polls giving them only 20 seats. The fact that they won 49 explained the pride with which Mr Garth was prepared to discuss his role in the country's most controversial campaign.



















THE ARTS

Now is the time for tales and heroes



The enchantress Morgana (Helen Mirren) and the eerie boy Mordred (Robert Addie)

Concerts

New Music Studio, Budapest

Riverside

Not much new music has come out of Communist Hungary into Western Europe, but enough to show that Bartok and Kodaly have their descendants down to the second or third generation. The current week of Hungarian music at Riverside Studios in Hammersmith is mostly concerned with excellent artistry, but it did last night include a programme of recent avant-garde music given by an established group of performers and composers who regularly present such concerts, at home or on tour, usually including music from other countries, I understand.

They brought six pieces by six composers to Riverside, four of them among the six performers. Young Hungarian composers seem fascinated by the Ostinato school of Steve Reich. Phil Glass, Mike Oldfield, David Bedford and Terry Riley. Each of these composers were known here, has produced at least one meritorious piece in the repetitive style, and perhaps their Hungarian brothers also have. They didn't bring them to Hammersmith.

First came Zoltan Sere's "Tale", a piano, prepared so as to simulate the late stop on the harpsichord, played an irregular, moderately paced Ostinato, with punctuation from an unprepared normal piano, and occasional paragraph-spacing by solo viola. Change of colour rather than contribution to the design. It was plain, but did not outstay its welcome. Gyula Caspary's "Little Bird" (Madarka in Hungarian) lists two drummers in front of two pianos; they scratch designs on the drumskins, confirming each result with a note on the piano, rather like itemizing purchases on a shop's cash register. The drum scratches were amplified through loudspeakers: an activity, perhaps a contest, but not music, to my ears.

Laszlo Sary's "Pentatonic Exercise", four two pianos, one electronic, persisted doggedly in Ostinato, hypnotic for a while, afterwards dull because the music got no farther, yet went on and on. Sarnas Dukacs played his "Guns flowers", a piano piece consisting of common chords and single notes separated by long pauses, lengthy and barren: the chords, after a while, became a sort of musical aura, yet, as our national anthem, and this is Chopin's military Polonaise, and what's that dominant 7th? — of course, one of Beethoven's symphonies.

Laszlo Vidovszky's Solo with instrumental obbligato did offer contrast. Sander Papp, on the viola, played an extended melody in folk-style, while others accompanied, sometimes substantially so, it seemed, context of musical famine, it was the least exacerbating item in a truly maddening concert: music can be as outrageous as it likes, but dullness is the ultimate sin.

William Mann

LMP/Blech/Szeryng

Festival Hall

To conduct or not to conduct? For all Harry Blech's sterling work with the London Mozart Players, for all the pitfalls and pedantry to which conductorless baroque and classical performances are prone, for most of Wednesday night the rostrum might well have been better empty.

One of the first of Papa Haydn's was a symphony off-spring, the little three-movement Symphony No 1 in D, was, in its 1759 premiere, directed by Haydn from the harpsichord. Transported from Count Morzin's palace to the Festival Hall it gained a conductor, and a considerable number of strings; the result was that the work, albeit immaculately played, seemed genteel beyond its years, lacking both the invigorating interplay of chamber performance and the fresh, open-air colouring of the barely audible two oboes.

Haydn's first was complemented by Mozart's last in a performance of the Symphony No 41, more inspiring in the notation than in the execution; and the two symphonies framed two violin concertos: Bach's in A minor and Mozart's in G (K 216).

From the moment that he asked the violinists to move closer to him, it was clear that Henryk Szeryng was to be as much director as soloist: in the Bach an authoritative but uninspiring teacher schooling obedient but uninspired pupils; in the Mozart a more challenging player and audience alike to reexamine and recharge their sensibilities.

If the outer movements of the Bach, overweight and rhythmically laborious, bow down the obligato-like character of the solo writing, the slow movement gave a foretaste of that introspective solo playing in which the very quality of sound itself was nurtured and grew slowly outwards each orchestral tutti, and which was to reach its apotheosis in the Mozart.

Hilary Finch

Cinema

Excalibur (AA)

Warner West End

Clash of the Titans (A)

Empire

S.O.B (AA)

Leicester Square Theatre

Eyes of a Stranger (X)

Warner West End

All the recent biggest box office successes — the *Star Wars* cycle and *Superman* cycle among them — have been fantastic tales of super-heroes. Even James Bond (and they're queuing all day in Leicester Square) is really a mythological invincible in modern dress: the element of wonder is now much more important in the series than the earlier pseudo-sophistication of political thriller.

Hollywood promises a whole new series of what is called in the trade "sword and sorcery" pictures. John Boorman's *Excalibur* (technically, suppose, an Irish film since it was shot there, on location and in the National Studios) is a monumental harbinger.

the world is looking for heroes, there are a few more suitable than King Arthur, whose lustrous rule of a glorious, ideal Britain has been a recurrent vision since the early ages. John Boorman, who wrote the screenplay with Rospo Pallenberg, has taken his version mainly from Malory, reinterpreting, though, in his own literary and visual style.

Arthur, compromising the magical elements of the story, he sees his characters in realistic terms. Arthur, brought up a squire, is a simple yokel who learns only gradually the gravity and eventually the majesty of kingship. Merlin, though his magic is real enough, is a tricky old buffoon, full of jests and regret for the passing of the age of wizardry. Apart from the demonic Morgana (Helen Mirren), women in this medieval world are required only to be fair and faithful and in the background. Knights, when they're not busy with chivalry, tend to be boozey, but their behaviour is real.

At first the effect of the modern dialogue (but who dare say what was the conversational mode at Camelot?), of bringing the figures of myth down to familiar earth, is disconcerting. There is rather a lot of

roistering (with some unlikely speculation at a neo-oriental style for Arthurian dancing (halls) and the clash of iron about iron in bloody close combat — recalling inevitably Monty Python's trip to the Grail. There are memories of other films: Boorman must have admired Brecon's *Lancelot du Lac* and the spectacle of Kurosawa's *Kagemusha*.

Once the style and premises are established though, myth makes over and the film soars above all such comparisons. Boorman reveals a wonderfully individual gift for embodying the mystical and the magical. Set pieces like the crystalline cavern where Morgana incarnates the too glibly Merly may look like designers' contrivances. It is rather out of the dark land and forests, mists, the light sparkling off Excalibur or blinding the seekers of the Grail, that Boorman creates his real wonders.

The magic takes off with the first appearance of Lancelot as an apparition in shimmering white. After that the film abounds with visions: the nightmare of a naked Lancelot

wrestling with his own armour; the fallen Lancelot and Guinevere, naked again, half-glumped in a misty wood; various pecking into the eyes of Morgana's knightly victims; the eerie boy Mordred (Robert Addie); the last battle, fogged with the dragon's breath.

It is a world where, in the proper style of myth, ordinary notions of time and place are willingly forgotten. We do not know or wonder if a quest takes seven years or seventy. Heroes do not age and die as ordinary men. Here, people can travel and see and speak in dreams.

The force of the visions is the belief that they impose, and which appears to come from the film makers' own total faith in their story. The old tales are told on their own terms, without the distance of detachment or disbelief; and they prove in the telling to have lost none of the power they have exerted on listeners for a thousand years.

It helps the illusion, of course, to have a cast so refreshingly free of well-known faces, demystified by familiarity. Only the wizards Merlin

and Morgana are played by established stars; and since magicians are hams anyway, it doesn't matter that it is Nicol Williamson and Helen Mirren who turn their turns. Nigel Terry masters the transformation of the awkward young Arthur to the regal older one; Nicholas Celentano is a handsome Lancelot and Paul Geoffrey an interesting Irish-rosic Perceval.

With such a fresh, original, wholly individual reinterpretation of the legend, it is hard to comprehend the curious decision to introduce quotations from Wagner in the musical score. Discordant as they are with the rest of Trevor Jones's score — which includes quite interesting experiments with the sounds of medieval music — they intrude, much worse, a wholly different, opposing and too assertive interpretation of the Arthurian legend.

Perseus, if you like to be pedantic, must have been half brother to King Arthur. When that reckless old forger Geoffrey of Monmouth was cobbling together the old tales in the twelfth century, he stole the story of Arthur's conception

(with Merlin's aid, Uther Pendragon assumes the shape of Igraine's husband to get into her bed) from Zeus's deception on the wife of Amphitryon. And Zeus, in the course of another amorous adventure, begot Perseus.

The *Clash of the Titans* is a very free retelling of the Perseus legend, a more innocent and traditional sort of movie — indeed it falls by chance into the well-established patterns of Indian mythological films, with a rabble of very human immortals sitting up in their Olympus, battling over the destinies of the mortals beneath.

These Gods are a distinguished group of thespians: Lord Olivier as a sly Zeus, Maggie Smith (whose husband Beverly Cross wrote the workaday script) crotchety as ever as Hera, Clair Bloom as Hera and Ursula Andress as Aphrodite.

Down on earth, tossed this way and that by their whims, is Perseus, played by Harry Hamlin, who looks as if he would be a demon in the forward line of a college

football team. He looks a bit slow-witted too, but has Burgess Meredith as his confidant and adviser, the actor Ammon.

The actors though take second place to the special effects, supervised by an old master of the craft, Ray Harryhausen, who learned his trade at the knees of Willis O'Brien, creator of King Kong himself. There is a pleasant hand-crafted quality about these old-style stop-action effects that is not found in the more sophisticated techniques of recent science fiction films. The ancient world offers a lot of scope: there is graceful Pegasus, a knock-about comedy owl and a Bette Midler lookalike Medusa. It is touching to recognize the voice of Dame Flora Robson emerging from one of the three grotesque Graecae, with their single, shared crystal eye.

The press show demonstrated that it is a great entertainment for the very young, and 12-year-olds evidently thrill to the couple of brief and fairly chaste nude scenes.

Blake Edwards has clearly seen enough of Hollywood to

justify the jaundiced view of his black comedy *S.O.B.* He started work there as an actor 40 years ago and long before that, in 1914, he had an uncle who was a distinguished director in silent film.

*S.O.B.* is a movie a chef and people in the know say it is much, much funnier if you can identify the real-life originals of these producers, directors, agents, snarkers, actors, hooters, press-men and yes-men. Less informed audiences may well find it hard to believe in a society where people, down to the last man, share such bad manners, bad morals and bad manners, and wallow in their multi-million dollar vulgarity.

It is not easy to make comedy where everyone is so repugnant. The only nice person in the picture is a dog who spends his life looking after the corpse of his master, an old forgotten actor who has dropped dead of a coronary on the beach. Nobody else in Hollywood has time to bother with a dog.

The worst of it is that it all rings true, or at least truthful, even the story of the director who makes the all-time \$30 million flop, buys it back from the studio and reshoots it as a sincere comedy. There are some funny barbed lines and rather less successful knockabout. Generally it is funnier the straighter it is played. Robert Webber, dyspeptic press agent, Shelley Winters's ruthless agent, William Holden's libidinous director and above all the admirable Robert Preston's special-services physician come off very much better than the overdoing of Richard Mulligan in the central role, or Loretta Swit as a vicious gossip columnist.

The good thing about *Eyes of a Stranger* — made by the same production group as *Friday the 13th* — is that a very few pictures like this might effect the speedy demise of the current horror cycle. With a rapacious and bloody sex killer and a lady TV newscaster who stalks him with energy but remains like this intelligence, it goes zombie-like through all the motions of the genre.

The final quarry who (according to formula) does for the killer is, in this distasteful film, a blind deaf-mute; and it seems a dubious idea to make the hero of the Disabled that dose of sexual assault quite cures the disabilities that have defied all the efforts of conventional medicine.

David Robinson

Theatre

The Misanthrope

Round House

Arriving in London barely a month after its opening at the Manchester Royal Exchange, Casper Wrede's production renews its powerfully unfashionable argument for reviving foreign classics without hitching them to yesterday's news.

The performance springs from a single-minded conviction that Moliere knows his business and can do without directorial footnotes. The style is that of an enlarged studio show played in the round with three ornate stairways and a few silver furnishings. And Richard Wilbur's translation has clearly been chosen for its metrical and comic faithfulness to the author, even if it is over 20 years old (National Theatre, please note).

The only joke that is not Moliere's own is made in Malcolm Pryde's costumes which begin modestly enough with Alceste's green ribbons, and then take off into a barbed and bejewelled orgy of Beardsleyan extravagance that reaches its climax in the

fantastically gilded and plumed outfit of the Marquise, guard, a four-line part.

With Tom Courtenay in the lead breaking all the rules of the surrounding polite society, this is not a company show; but one of its great pleasures is the shared work of a company who are not afraid of rhymed couplets. With one (otherwise well acted) exception they convert the prison of metre into dramatic energy, getting their punch-lines and their pauses from it, testing its elasticity for conversation, inflections, and using it to make the play dance.

The stage even suggests a ballroom floor, with Nicholas Amer's balletically dignified Basque resetting the chairs for each new number. Each scene is formally choreographed; with the two idiot maquettes (Ian Hastings and Tim McInerney) arriving in mincing march rhythm, and delivering their backbiting pleasantries through clenched-teeth smiles; or James Ellis's virtuously reserved Eliante standing up and circling the group as she delivers her modest defence of amorous compromise. The transitions are also beautifully marked; as between Alceste's (Amanda Bower) virtuous courtesies to Célimène, which give way to knee-trembling desire as soon as Alceste sets foot in the room.

every cranny of the writing. They slip into playful characterizations, of which none is more playful than Miss Leigh-Hunt's Fanny Burney, recounting a discussion on the "arts" with George III, although George's most noted admirer, the bridegroom and heir to the throne, Prince Charles, might look askance on her Germanic portrait of George.

Yet Mr Howard is most diverse in his readings, turning James I into a Scottish minister with his *Counterblast* to *Tobacco* and curiously sending a secret memorandum about a proposed marriage in the role of Henry VIII. Mr Rodway even appeared to see William Thackeray as a Donald Siaden character. It is just such acting that will keep Mr Barton's assemblage fresh throughout the summer.

The normally easy-going but quite earnest Edwin Mullins had a marvelous time with this one. I suppose it was a bit like the clown. He adopted a low-pitched, breathless voice reminiscent of Edgar Lustgarten, the video sleuth of yesterday, who used to reconstruct famous crimes. Mullins did not give us the answer to the title's question until the very end. Instead he brought in the warring sides, the art historian, Christopher Wright and the costume expert Diana de Larly to say that the picture was a fake. Mr Wright attacked the awkwardness of the figures, Miss de Larly said one of the figures was wearing a zipper-fastened coat.

To top it all a Mr. Patrick O'Connor, an Irish art expert, claimed he had seen his friend George actually painting the picture in New York in the 50s.

Except when dealing with her and with Geoffrey, Barton's brilliantly funny, carpet-giving Oronte (the two most unappealing characters). Mr Courtenay offers a relentlessly hostile portrait of Alceste. Its disadvantage is that it leaves you wondering why so many people admire him. But theatrically it is a superb exposure of a sour narcissist. Courtenay has two main voices. The first is one of weary, cynical despair, telling us that he knows this wicked world and it has no more surprises for him. Eyore at the court of Louis XIV.

The other is one of mad-bull courage, which includes quite a lot of weary, cynical despair, telling us that he knows this wicked world and it has no more surprises for him. Eyore at the court of Louis XIV.

What the production lacks is a Célimène. Cecilia Richards looks like a Watteau nymph, but when it comes to charm and caprice, she leaves the assorted Alcestes and Célestins in the dust without a candle-flame.

Irving Wardle

And where was the mysterious Frenchman who discovered the picture? gathering dust in a spare room in the late 40s? Well, the defence came in. Professor Michael Kitson of London University said the mistakes mentioned by Mr Wright were quite common.

John Bradley, an Englishman now at the Metropolitan, said the word *merde* was just one of those jokes restorers are always playing.

A Picture restorer friend of his, he said, used to paint dry bicycles at the feet of crucifixes. Mrs Stella Blinn of the Metropolitan showed us several recent century paintings with clothes just like the de la Tour picture was old. Then Mullins, playing the "tec" went to France and traced the mysterious Frenchman who turned out to be a Count Jacques Collet. He

Dance

False steps at home and abroad

Swan Lake

Coliseum

Luckily, *Swan Lake* can be sure to fill the theatre, whatever the production is like. And the crowds who flock to the Coliseum this week and next have one thing to look forward to: Rudolf Nureyev in a role he has not danced here for some time.

Forget the odd costumes he has to wear; his first one, as a Wertheimer student type, actually suits him particularly well, and the later ones, a conventional nondescript ballet tunic and tights, is more or less unobjectionable once he is allowed to remove the cloak and hat he first has to wear over it. Clearly, Prince Siegfried, imagined wrongly that mummy was giving a costume ball, and dressed up as Ludwig of Bavaria.

What matters most, however, is the dancing, and nobody knows it better than Nureyev about how to present a classical solo to make sure that you really see its structure, and to bring out its meaning too. He has sensibly brought his own into the Boston Ballet's production his own melancholy slow dance for the first act (usually, I am told, they dance a number vaguely based on it) and the version of the third act bravura solo, which he has followed since his Kirov days.

Last night he danced both of these elegantly, clearly and with feeling, and those qualities appeared also in his acting, whatever oddities were happening around him, and in his use of Boston's French Odette-Odile, Marie-Christine Mouis. All the same, it was sad to see him appearing in what is frankly a very poor production with a company which, on this evening, is not ready for international exposure.

Although advance publicity indicated that the production was by Violette Verdy, she turns out to be responsible only for the choreography of the two



Rudolf Nureyev and Marie-Christine Mouis

lakeside scenes: a wishy-washy approximation to the standard Ivanov version of Act 2, although with disconcerting accents and fluffed details; and a treatment of Act 4 that begins as would-be lyricism and ends as a fudged drama.

The other two scenes have choreography by Bruce Wells. Its general shape again follows more or less traditional lines, but he has made a thoroughgoing new treatment of every dance, generally with appalling consequences. The one thing you can say in favour of it is that it proves the dancers to have lots of energy, which they exercise unstintingly. But do not expect style, sense or musicality, or you will be disappointed.

Which of the two choreographers was responsible for the general concept of the production is not revealed, but in fact its total effect is influenced less by either of them than by the extraordinary choice of Julia Trevelyan Oman as designer. For the unusual nature of Ashton's *Enigma Variations* (which was originally her idea anyway) she invented a splendid decor, but her unimaginative semi-realistic manner is disastrous in the context of this classic.

She gives the ballet its coup de grace by dressing the villain, Von Rothbart, as a giant, feathery, paunchy, po-faced owl. All he can do in that costume is stand about sadly or flap his wings reproachfully, as if

trying to protest at unseemly behaviour in his words. We all know that the original libretto specified an owl's form for him, but that has to be interpreted a lot less literally if he is to have any menace at all.

In a different production, I imagine that the Boston company's extremes of types among its dancers might be interesting; they come in a wider range of heights, shapes and ages than most classical ballet companies. The one thing they seem to share, unfortunately, is a lack of polish, and especially of musicality.

That is surprising in a company with Verdy, the most musical of all dancers, as joint director, and perhaps her influence in the long term will permeate them. On last night's showing, their musical direction is not what might be desired; Michel Sasson seemed determined to show just how briskly all the fast tempi could be taken, and to spin out the slower passages almost beyond belief.

Marie-Christine Mouis made an acceptable, if flashy and inelegant, Odile. She seems less suited to the lyrical scenes for Odette, the other half of the double role, and nowhere did she reveal the quality she showed when she danced MacMillan's *Song of the Earth* in Paris. Everyone else danced energetically, but the acting throughout was sadly heavy-handed.

John Percival

Stanley Reynolds

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July 9th, 9.30 pm

July 9th, 9.30 pm

July 9th, 9.30 pm

July 9th, 9.30 pm

July 9th, 9.30 pm



# Why Ulster cannot afford to go it alone

It is 60 years since the then King George V opened the Stormont Assembly in Northern Ireland. On the day that he did, *The Times* editorial spoke of a new addition to the Empire. The clear belief was that a new independent state was coming in to existence. So yesterday's call by the former Premier James Callaghan for a move towards Ulster independence is not such a new idea: he is re-opening a book which has lain closed for years.

Those years, particularly the most recent of them, have seen a profound change in the Ulster economy. Could Northern Ireland take its place in the world as an independent state? The answer is not yet; it will take many years to undo the ravages of the 1970s. Any move towards separating Ulster from the United Kingdom would have to be accompanied by a long-term commitment to provide development assistance.

Some of the money could come from other members of the European Community, but the rest of Britain would have to accept that it would pay subsidies to an independent country unless it was prepared to witness a huge drop of living standards in the North.

At present, Northern Ireland gets a direct subsidy from the United Kingdom of £780m for its 1.1m people. That works out at just over £500 per head or £10 a week for every man, woman and child in the province. That sum is almost exactly the same as the gap between living standards in the North and those in the Republic.

In fact the true cost to the rest of United Kingdom is higher than £780m. There are extra payments for pensions (specially mentioned by Mr. Callaghan) which take the total up to £1,000m a year. Throw in the cost of law and order and the price rises to £1,500m a year, or about half the total of public spending in Northern Ireland being paid for by a



subsidy from the rest of Britain.

If the North were an independent state, it would be running the biggest trade deficit in the world for its size. In 1978, the last date for which figures are available, there was a trade deficit equivalent to virtually a third of the "country's" gross product.

How has this come about? The answer is that two forces have been at work producing ever increasing subsidies from London to the North. The first is the disintegration of the manufacturing base of the Ulster economy. The second is pressure within the province and in the rest of the United Kingdom to raise living standards.

The chart shows how Ulster's industry has collapsed under the hammer blows of decline in Britain and its own troubles. Once Belfast was one of the great manufacturing cities of the Empire, turning out ships and textiles in enormous quantities. Even when these industries started to run into problems, manufacturing re-

mained the backbone of the Ulster economy, the thing which distinguished it from the agricultural South.

In 1960, over 40 per cent of all the jobs were in manufacturing and although the 1960s saw a drop in the number of manufacturing jobs, the level of output in the province rose impressively.

All that stopped in the early seventies. Much of the setback has been caused by recession in the rest of the United Kingdom, though the troubles have made it harder to get manufacturers to set up. Although grants are generous and many jobs are subsidized, the Republic has offered aid packages which have had none of the problems of further North.

Yet in spite of this run-down of industry, which by 1979 was down to little more than a quarter of all jobs, the total amount of employment in Ulster has gone up. The reason, as pointed out recently by Bob Rowthorn of Cambridge University, is the explosive growth of the public sector. The

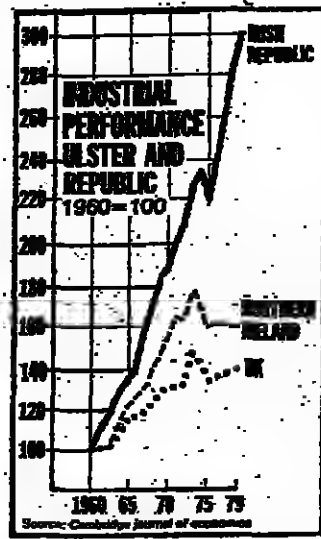
number of government jobs went up by half during the seventies, a much bigger growth than in the rest of the United Kingdom.

Paying for this has been expensive. The cost of the British subsidy to Northern Ireland doubled between 1968 and 1978 even after the effects of inflation are taken out. But it was an essential part of the approach to the problems adopted by successive governments.

Since Ulster was part of Britain, it was indefensible that the standard of public services in the province should be lower than in the rest of the United Kingdom. So there have been huge increases in spending on health, education and other social services.

These improvements in the standards of service have created jobs to replace those wiped out in manufacturing. But they have not always provided jobs of the kind which those made redundant from the textile mills could fill.

An independent Ulster would not be able to pay for



One of the few flourishing industries in Northern Ireland: an engineer at Shorts of Belfast working on the Comander 360 airliner, which made its first flight recently.

the quality of public services which have grown up over recent years—which is far higher than that in the South—unless it got continuing aid. The problem it would face is that whatever the good intentions, it is unlikely that a United Kingdom which is certain to face economic difficulties throughout the 1980s would actually be willing to go on paying large sums to a country with which it had severed links.

Nor could Ulster probably afford to go on with such high living standards for those who have jobs. One of the major campaigns of the 1970s has been to achieve equal pay with workers in Great Britain.

They have not got there yet, but they are a lot closer than they were 15 years ago. So at a time when Britain as a whole has been pricing itself out of world markets, Northern Ireland has been becoming a more expensive place in which to make things compared with other parts of Britain. The result

has been rising industrial subsidies, of which the recurrent hand-outs to Harland and Wolff are the most famous example. If these were to be cut off, many of the manufacturing jobs which still exist would be in immediate jeopardy.

The hope for Ulster in that sort of situation would have to be that it could achieve some of the same sort of growth which its southern neighbour has known over the past decade.

The only way an independent Ulster could hope to compete would be an immediate devaluation of its currency, probably tying it to the Irish punt, which is now worth only 80p, after years in which it was linked to the pound. That might not be a bad thing in any case for a country which has over 17 per cent unemployment—one of the disadvantages to Ulster of its membership of the United Kingdom has that it has not been able to pursue an independent exchange rate policy of its own.

But the gains from that should not be exaggerated. The rest of Britain is bound to remain overwhelmingly dominant in Ulster's trade. There have been many efforts to encourage cross-border links with EEC money, but trade with the Republic still accounts for only a very small part of total activity.

Nor could the Republic take over the cost of support from the United Kingdom. The Dublin Budget is in heavy deficit. There is no possibility of it assuming such a heavy burden. So an independent Ulster, whatever its political attractions, would need to rely just as heavily as it does at present on outside help, with the United Kingdom playing the major part.

David Blake  
Economics Editor

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# A fat lot some people care about dieting

Michael Leppman reports from New York about a group stoutly opposing widely held opinions on obesity.

Few self-respecting Americans do not nowadays regard themselves as part of an oppressed and stigmatized group. Day after day, our sympathies are sought by indigent blacks, women, homosexuals, landlords, tenants, Irish, old people, young people... the list is endless.

The National Association to Aid Fat Americans (NAAFA) has, on the face of it, one of the least-fertile rows to hoe. Fat, both the word and the corpulent condition it describes, has never been more despised in polite society—in the latest best-seller list, that reliable guide to social attitudes, three of the top six books are about dieting.

The fat folk resent this. They say the promotion of weight loss as desirable implies that to be fat is despicable. On a more practical level, they point out that diets, most people in the long term, do not work. Despite all the anti-fat propaganda, membership of the association is growing.

"There is a lot of suppressed anger in people," says William Fabrey, president of NAAFA, who founded the group 12 years ago. "The traditional myth of the jolly, laughing fat person is wrong."

Yet as if to disprove his point, Mr. Fabrey has assembled a group of five jolly fat women (alternatively, five jolly fat men) in an apartment above the association's headquarters in Bellerose, a middle-class suburb just inside the eastern limit of New York City. They each weighed 250 lb or more and most ruffled from ample, flowing dresses in purples, mauves and reds.

They joked and giggled and explained that they could not act in this relaxed fashion because they had learnt if not exactly to love their flesh, at least not to despise it. Must have spent years dieting unsuccessfully before accepting, in the words of Mrs. Lisbeth Fisher, the executive secretary, that "I am fat and am going to be fat all my life."

Joining NAAFA is, as Mrs. Fisher says, a traumatic experience, because it means denying the conventional wisdom that fat is ugly. It means correcting the assumption of friends and relatives that you are trying to lose weight and complaining when they pointedly exclude you when passing around cakes, pies and sweets.

"People say: 'Susan, you don't really need that other piece of bread,'" said Mrs. Susan Hoyt, the recently divorced mother of a four-year-old child. "When I told my mother I was joining NAAFA she said: 'That means you're not going to try any more.'"

Discrimination comes in more tangible forms, too. The five women complained that clothes manufacturers assume that fat people want to disguise their bulk in flowing gowns and dark colours. The dazzling clothes they wore at the meeting were a calculated challenge to that preconception.

"The talk of 'slenderizing' fashions," said Miss Nancy Summer, who works for a toy company, "I don't want to look slender. I used to wear a slim-line giraffe until it dawned on me that instead of looking as though I weighed 350 lb (25 stone) I looked as though I weighed 345."

Mrs. Joanne Preissler works as a "super-size model" in New York's garment-manufacturing district off Seventh Avenue. Only in the last year or so has demand for her services grown. Until then, clothing designers had made clothes for fat people by simply extending the measurements of smaller sizes, making for an imperfect fit.

"It's hard to get designers to design sexy clothes for fat women," she said. "I have to get them to realize that I'm an attractive woman and men want to look at me."

"It's getting a bit better," said Mrs. Fisher. "When I wanted to buy a gown for a function a few years ago I couldn't get one that didn't

make me look like the mother of the bride. Now they are starting to realize that there are women out there with money in their fat little hands."

Mrs. Preissler complains that fashion people never use the word "fat" when talking to her. They call it "this," she said. "They say 'it doesn't sit right over this'."

Yet they talk about taking home a fat pay cheque, she pointed out, and they talk about plumping-up cushions. These are other ways in which life is tough for the portly. Restaurants seldom have chairs high enough. Turnstiles at underground railway stations and in many supermarkets are an embarrassingly tight squeeze.

They complain loudest of all about doctors, who, they allege, diagnose almost every ailment they suffer as a consequence of their weight. NAAFA challenges weight standards accepted by insurance companies when judging life expectancy. They claim that dieting, which tends to make a person's weight rise and fall like a yo-yo, is more harmful to health than staying fat. "If there was a cure for obesity, how come there are so many cures?" Miss Summer wondered.

Some of the women were unable to tell me exactly how



An eighteenth-century print of a fashion-conscious lady.

much they weighed because domestic scales seldom go above 22 stones, and doctors' scales not above 25. At one clinic I was sent down to the meat scales in the basement," said Miss Summer indignantly.

Doctors say people are overweight when 10 per cent above the norm, for their height, and obese when 20 per cent over. If double the norm—like all the women in the group—they are called morbidly obese, and they resent that too.

"Why morbid?" Miss Summer asked. "Don't thin people die?" They just fade away," Mrs. Hoyt responded. "Come on," Mr. Fabrey chimed. "No anti-thin jokes."

The company laughed merrily. The woman said that until they joined NAAFA they found it painful to be seen in public and would never think of wearing a swimming costume: now they swim quite a lot.

Miss Summer told of a traumatic and ironic experience some years ago. She was waiting for a train and a man came up behind her and thrust a leaflet into her hand. In the train she opened the leaflet, saw the word "fat" and was covered with embarrassment. As a result, she stopped travelling by train and took a job nearer home.

Years later she found out that the man was Mr. Fabrey, in an early and unsuccessful attempt at recruiting members by singling out fat people in crowds—which he now realizes was a cruel and cruel joke.

"We gave out 700 leaflets," he said. "Out of them: two people joined and the other 198 stood under the railway."

More hearty rolls of laughter. It was time to close the meeting and I decided who should be sent out to buy pizza.

# Do summits only lead to trouble at the top?

David Watt

The fifteenth-century diplomatist, Philippe de Commines wrote that two great princes who want to establish good relations should never meet face to face. The majority of officials in the world's foreign ministries would agree with this dictum—and the substitution of 15 or 150 "princes" for two certainly does not make the argument any weaker.

The classic case against summit conferences is that diplomacy is a job for professionals. Good relations between states means the accommodation of conflicting interests; and accommodation means clear understandings couched in precise language and unclouded by considerations of personal animosity or hostility. Trained diplomats are capable of producing and working in this rather clinical environment. Heads of government, with their massive egos, their ignorance of the essential details and their ingrained belief in the value of backslapping ambiguity, simply mess everything up.

Things appear to be made even worse under the eye of modern communications. Heads of government personality regimes; everything is expected of them, and a failure reduces the credibility of government and even of the state itself. Since this cannot be allowed, every summit meeting must be a "success" for each of its members. That being normally impossible, even with the aid of the most bland and skilful communicators, the individual summiters must

either make unwise concessions or a tremendous row.

This general indictment of the process is worth recalling as we move into a summer and autumn of hectic summitry. An EEC summit took place this week; this month the "big seven" economic powers—the United States, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and Japan—meet at Ottawa; the Commonwealth prime ministers meet in Melbourne in September; there is a big north-south economic summit in Mexico in October; and after that the European Council (chaired this time by Mrs. Thatcher) comes around again. Can all this activity achieve anything, or is it likely to be another long demonstration of frustration and hypocrisy?

On the face of it, the prospects range from poor to horrible. Indeed so far as practical agreement is concerned, there can scarcely ever since the last war have been a less auspicious moment for meeting. Of the West-West summits (Luxembourg, Ottawa, London) only the last has the slightest prospect of achieving any serious advance (on EEC finance). Otherwise the combination of new incumbents (Reagan, Mitterrand, Suzuki, Spadolini), shaky governments (Schmidt, Spadolini and Suzuki) and the sheer difficulty of the economic outlook make progress virtually impossible.

Take the main subjects on the Ottawa agenda, for instance. The United States Government has not the

slightest intention of lowering American interest rates in response to calls from the Europeans, and in any case the Europeans (as was seen in Luxembourg) are divided on the subject. Similarly the Japanese will, with the utmost politeness, evade all attempts to get them to impose restraints on their "torrential" exports to Europe.

In the case of the North-South summits (Melbourne and Mexico) even less is likely to emerge. Fashionable ideological opposition in the developed countries to all forms of intervention combines with fears of global inflation and simple shortage of cash at a time of drastic economic emergency to produce a climate extremely hostile to any kind of development assistance.

President Reagan may go to Mexico and read the riot act to the developing world for the edification of his home constituency, or he may, more likely, try to be in a smooth, avuncular fashion. Either way the result will be the same—disappointed hopes and much recrimination.

Why then do these eminent gentlemen (and ladies) intend to go gallivanting about the globe in this way instead of minding their domestic business or, better still, bringing down their blood pressure on the beach? The answers are not all equally

good, but they are all, none the less, compelling.

The first and perhaps least reputable is the necessity of being seen to "do something." It may in the long run be disillusioning if the rulers of the earth take counsel together to deal with some emergency and nothing whatever ensues, but in the short run it is reassuring to the voters to think that their man is bounding on the top table, on their behalf.

This is particularly true of the developing countries, who can in fact bring a little moral pressure to bear on their OECD colleagues in this way providing they do not overplay their hand. Even the leaders of the developed countries can occasionally expect to change each other's minds on specific questions in dispute, and in hard times, it is always worth a shot.

A better reason, also political, is the opportunity a summit gives a leader to praise virtue and still get away with it. For instance, it is the educated consensus of the developed world that free trade is good and protection is bad. On the other hand that is not the perception of a hundred different groups and lobbies in every country.

The assertion that higher tariffs would harm the general good is far easier if proclaimed in *ex cathedra* by the united leaders of the Alliance.

The majority of the politicians who actually attend summits do not, of course, often own to either of these motives. Most will tell you that the chief value is in fact the old classic doctrine of *dismisses*: namely the opportunity to know the mind of the person in charge of another country—and one that no theory ever mentions at all—the chance to think about longer term issues.

This penchant is in part a matter of membership in a rather exclusive club; it is also, on occasion, a matter of relaxation. The main point, however, is the fact that most modern presidents and prime ministers are at normal times remarkably blinkered.

The task of day-to-day administration and political management presses on them, and if they look at the international scene beyond the immediate crisis issue, it is mainly through the eyes of their own senior civil servants. To be obliged to examine a strategy through the eyes of people who have equal but different responsibilities and on whom it may be at some stage necessary to rely is an essential contribution of their political intelligence.

The trouble, then, with most summits in today's conditions is not that they serve no useful purpose. It is rather that they are usually badly organized for the purpose that they serve best, being so often expected to resolve ad hoc disputes, whether about Japanese cars, about sheep meat, or about commodities, and all in a blaze of publicity.

The Mexico summit will be more or less of a disaster being far too large and too confrontational. The Ottawa summit will be rather better, if only because it will give the seven some chance to get to know Messrs Reagan and Mitterrand.

But it, too, will be a missed opportunity. At 36 hours, of which three or four will probably be taken up with approving the communiqué which has been drafted weeks in advance by officials, it is far too short to tackle the long-term political and economic issues that cry out for examination at this level—East-West trade, the security of the Gulf, energy questions and a host of others. Also, being one of an infrequent series, far too much is expected of it.

The two remaining meetings constitute the best models for these affairs. The Commonwealth prime ministers' meeting every two years can afford to give themselves a leisurely and highly edifying week—the only really satisfactory North-South dialogue that is at present going on.

The European Council, on the other hand, is regular, reasonably frequent and flexible. It can if necessary be used to settle disputes and can formally bless agreements reached. But it also offers, in a crucial field, the psychological and political insights that constitute the necessary education of modern political leaders—that is, if they are able and willing to be educated.

# Publishers want to bring America to book

Ten leading British publishers, among them such well-known names as Faber and Faber, Cape, Collins, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, and Hamish Hamilton have complained to the Publishers' Association about the most serious rash of copyright infringement in living memory.

In recent months the publishers have been licensed to find that an increasing number of general-interest books published by British firms have had to compete with much cheaper American editions of the same works which have been imported by middlemen, who in turn sold them to remainder bookshops. The practice has now mushroomed to the level where legal action is being contemplated by the association on the publishers' behalf.

Faber appear to have been particularly badly hit. Via the association's solicitor, they have approached the Squire bookshop in Oxford Street, complaining about Squire's alleged sale of *The Letters of Gustav Mahler*. The Faber edition retails at £15 whereas at Squire the American version costs £4.95. A spokesman for Squire said that they were sorry it had been a mistake, and that as from yesterday the unsold copies had been sent to Faber.

But Faber are also believed to be worried about four other titles, including the letters of Bela Bartok and works by Ted Hughes and Lawrence Durrell. (The authors,

of course, suffer as well as the publishers.)

Essentially, the problem has arisen because American publishers, granted the rights to publish and sell particular titles of British books in Canada and the United States, have been forced for economic and taxation reasons to remainder stock. These foreign editions, some of which still in print in Britain, have then been circulating in the world market, only to emerge in our remainder shops at very low prices. As many as 40 titles may be affected already and no one knows when still more "pirate" editions may appear.

## Frears' treat

Dedicated followers of fashion can look forward to a rare treat next week when Berrmans and Nathans, the internationally famous film and theatrical costumers, stage a grand sale.

Up to 4,000 items of clothing, including the screen-printed trousers that Keith Moon wore in the movie *Tommy*, Adam Ant-style military jackets and surplus jumpsuits from the space-station sequence in the James Bond film *Moonraker*, are to be sold, for anything from £3 to £100.

Punks, young romantics and fancy dress lovers will be able to pick up evening dresses as worn in *The Boys From Brazil*, lincolns from near prehistoric times and what manager Gerald Moulton describes as "a very nice" Bussard's Jacket.

The sale, which takes place at the firm's Irving Street headquarters next Saturday, has been prompted by the need to thin out a huge and

# THE TIMES DIARY

The news that the United States is to supply Israel with F16 fighters after the ceasefire has been agreed to Mr. Begin, but he must be hoping the Americans will not make the same mistake as last time—and deliver the planes on the Sabbath. Five years ago, on a Friday in December 1976, three F16 fighters arrived from the United States at a military airfield in Israel, and were met by a welcoming committee headed by the then Labour Prime Minister, Yitzhak

ever-growing collection of costumes. More than a million items are stored in B and N's Camden warehouse alone.

The fashion-conscious will also be pleased to learn that the firm is extending into the retail business for the first time. Their Irving Street foyer is to be used to sell costume items, original designs, posters and film and theatrical memorabilia.

## Bedroom farewells

John Poole-Hughes, the Bishop of Landaff, has sent me two further examples of ways to get rid of guests who have overstayed their welcome. We have clearly unearthed a rich seam for a budding ethnologist in search of a Ph.D. topic. (*The Unwanted Guest: A Structural*

Rabin. Unfortunately, the planes came in 20 minutes late, just as dusk was falling, and by the time the ceasefire was over the sun had set and the Sabbath had begun. The religious parties were so incensed at this sacrilege that they tabled a censure motion in the Knesset, despite the fact that they were in coalition with Labour. The coalition collapsed, and Mr. Begin won the ensuing election, forming a coalition with—yes, the religious parties. He now hopes to do the same again—barring, that is, the odd Sabbath-breaking incident over the next month or so.

*list Critique of an Interactional Ritual.*)

"Twenty five years ago," the Bishop writes, "I was teaching in a theological college in Tanganyika (as it then was) and our students were continually asking for advances from their grant because relations taking advantage of the fact that the students had an income, decided to come and stay with them. Custom demanded that the students should receive them hospitably, though many overstayed their welcome. Custom also made it impossible, we were told, for the students to ask relations to leave."

"But there must be some way to get rid of them," we on the staff said. "Well," we were told, "in extreme cases, the woman of the house can pretend the unwanted guest with a lighted lamp in the

middle of the day, on the assumption that he cannot see the way home adequately; or she can sweep the path ahead of him to make sure there is no small barrier to his taking the road out."

On second thoughts, rather than combining all these into a Ph.D. someone should collect them in a small book, complete with embarrassing cartoons. All this started in the first place with ideas for boring bedside reading that would help drop the hint to guests that their

hosts had had enough. Once such a book appeared by the bed, the guest would know his time was up. It's the perfect answer.

## Hot humour

Medical school deans, fearing for their colleges in the current round of university cuts, are not noted for their sense of humour these days. An exception is Professor Sir John Walton, president of the British Medical Association and a world-renowned neurologist.

In his ten years as dean of Newcastle medical school, all has not been sweetness and light. In the men's lavatory at his medical school where a modern hot-air hand-drier has been installed, he says, some supporter has written alongside: "For a short message from the dean, press the red button."

## Goon gap

The BBC has been receiving plenty of protests from abroad about the Government axing the BBC Transcription Service, which sells radio programmes to foreign stations. But few have made a more poignant plea than Radio Ikrangani, one of the tiniest subscribers to the service, which broadcasts on the Cook Islands, midway between Tahiti and Tonga: 70 per cent of its programme come from the BBC. If the service closes next year, the station will not only have to fill huge gaps, but the Cook Islanders will be deprived of their regular diet of such programmes as the *Goon Show* and *Sticton and Son*.

## A real hit

When the Vatican Radio put on sale last month a cassette recording of its own live commentary on the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II, many people thought the venture grotesque, overly commercial and in bad taste. "Are the merchants back in the temple?" asked one Italian newspaper headline. But it now appears the Vatican new its public only too well: the first edition of the tape, which ends with the halting voice of the Pope reading the prayer "Salve Regina" from his hospital bed, has already sold out.

## Toying with words

Rubik's cube, that irritating, compulsive and seemingly impossible toy, has received an unusual honour. After being voted toy of the year in many countries, including Britain, it has now won a place in the permanent design collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The 21st cube is named after its inventor, Professor Erno Rubik of Budapest. Each side is made up of nine mini-cubes that rotate in all directions. Strong men have been known to weep at its frustrating complexity, so the Americans, true to form, now have a book to help them. *The Simple Solution to Rubik's Cube* is its title; but the six-step formula is not my idea of simple: it takes most people hours to put into effect.

Peter Watson

مكتبة الأصيل





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## PEACE AND PRINCIPLE

Two new proposals for the future of Northern Ireland were put forward in the House of Commons yesterday. One, from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. Humphrey Atkins, is designed essentially to make the operation of direct rule more acceptable to the people of the province. The other, from Mr. James Callaghan, is more radical.

Mr. Atkins accepts that there is no immediate alternative to direct rule, for the simple reason that there is not a sufficient measure of agreement among the politicians of Northern Ireland on any new system. The parties representing the two communities there cannot agree either on an arrangement for power-sharing in a new devolved assembly, or to have an assembly without power-sharing. But without such an assembly or a new top tier of local government, there is undoubtedly a gap in the province's political institutions.

Mr. Atkins intends to fill this gap with a Northern Ireland Council composed of people already elected by the voters to other representative bodies: the House of Commons, the European Parliament or the twenty-six district councils. Representatives would be nominated by their respective parties in proportion to their electoral strength. The council would therefore consist of elected representatives without itself being directly elected. Its function would be purely advisory.

Such an arrangement would have certain modest advantages. It would provide a greater outlet for political activity in the

province. It would keep the British Government more closely in touch with Northern Irish opinion than the MPs can possibly do by themselves on a range of matters. It would be a standing forum in which Northern Irish representatives could themselves keep on trying to work out acceptable arrangements for the future government of the province. But unless and until it managed to devise such proposals it would be no more than a useful addition to the machinery for direct rule. Mr. Atkins was at pains to emphasize yesterday that "We are certainly not going to cut and run, leaving the citizens of Northern Ireland, the vast majority of whom want nothing more than to get on with their daily lives in peace and quiet, without the services and protection that they deserve and need."

Mr. Callaghan's proposal cannot escape that criticism. It is highly desirable that there should continue to be fresh and constructive thinking on Northern Ireland, especially from someone with such a distinguished record of public service, who has himself in the past had personal responsibility in a British government for the affairs of the province. There may also be some tactical advantage in some of Mr. Callaghan's standing in British calling upon the Government to begin a movement towards the creation of an independent Northern Ireland. It may make Protestant politicians there rather more willing to compromise with the Catholic parties. But there would be other, more disturbing, effects, if the

Government were to act on his advice. He is proposing in substance that, admittedly at the end of a process, having moved step by step, Northern Ireland should be expelled from the United Kingdom whether that was the wish of its people or not. They would as individuals retain the right to British citizenship, which enables Mr. Callaghan to claim that the guarantee that the constitutional position of the province will not be changed without the approval of a majority of the people would not be abandoned but "would be transferred from the territory to the people."

One of the rights of British citizenship in the United Kingdom, however, is the right to participate in the constituency where one is living, in electing a member to the House of Commons. Under Mr. Callaghan's scheme that right would ultimately be denied to Northern Irish people who continued to live in the province. This would be a critical deprivation. It would be a different matter if the people of Northern Ireland themselves wished to move towards independence. As David Blake points out on the opposite page, that would still leave Britain with the economic burden of supporting the province, if living standards in the province were not to fall drastically.

Nonetheless, if that were the wish of the Northern Irish people, it would be right for Britain to respond constructively. But for Britain on its own initiative to remove Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom would be unprincipled and would not lead to peace in the province.

## UNIVERSITIES UNDER THE KNIFE

There are two components in the University Grants Committee's decisions, given out yesterday, about how to apply the spending cuts that the Government has laid down for universities. First there is the public and mandatory part: the announcement of the size of grant for each university in the coming academic year, with estimates for the two succeeding years. These figures may be open to negotiation or to revision in the light of future Government policy, but in the last resort what the committee decides on these issues will be so.

Then there is the advisory part, some of it published in yesterday's statement and some in confidential letters to each university, in which the committee explains what cuts in student numbers it believes to be necessary if the grant reductions are not to lead to lower standards, and how it wishes the reductions to be made subject by subject. On these matters the committee has no power to insist. If indifference over the proposals runs high in coming weeks, as it is likely to, it should not make the mistake of claiming that the state (for the UGC is technically an arm of the state) is making any new encroachment in a formal sense upon academic freedom.

In practice, though, the changes demanded are unprecedented, and it will be a little while before the implications sink in. The Government has reversed a trend of expansion in British higher education which had continued since the Second

World War. Given our economic plight and the Government's policies for managing it, the decision to cut makes sense. But the academic world has no experience of contraction. It will hurt, and coming so suddenly it could well cause unnecessary harm and disorder. It would have been no service to academic freedom for the UGC to have spread the load equally and left the universities to make the best of it alone. Detailed direction of policy from the centre would be clumsy and oppressive, but a pattern is needed for each university to react to.

The pattern that emerges from yesterday's announcement appears broadly appropriate to the condition of a country finding it difficult to compete economically. Business studies and technology to go up; social studies and town planning to go down. But there is no hidebound promotion of technology wherever it is found: indeed, four of the seven universities hardest hit are former Colleges of Advanced Technology. Departments of technology are expensive to equip and run at a high standard, and the logic of concentration applies to them strongly.

The arts are to shrink, with concentration of foreign language teaching in fewer and larger departments, while ensuring that the minority languages which tend to be sacrificed when economies are needed do not vanish altogether. Special consideration is also to be given to the interests of research and libraries, both vulnerable to similar pressures.

The importance of promoting continuing education in a rapidly-changing world is understated, however.

The scale of the cuts in some institutions is so great that redundancies may be necessary. The question whether it is possible to make do with a reduced staff is one that will have to be determined by the courts: to legislate retrospectively about existing contracts would be repugnant. In any event, the Government should treat compensation as an item for additional funding, as in the coal and steel industries.

In general, the UGC's guidance to making the best of an unwelcome necessity deserves to be received with respect by universities. It is a pity that the whole of higher education of which the universities are only a small part has no body like it to take an overall view of where cuts should fall. Greater coherence of planning in the whole field would reduce the unavoidably arbitrary aspect of the UGC's role. Planning in this wider context would seek more effectively to meet the paradox that Britain has to cut higher education because of economic failures which may well be connected with the fact that fewer young people here than in competing countries go on to gain the skills that an advanced society needs. It cannot be demonstrated that a large university sector, nor even higher education as a whole, make a country more competitive. But in some sense, skills must be a safeguard against unemployment for nations, as they are for individuals.

## NEW PIPER, NEW TUNES?

French radio and television have been under close government control for many years. M. Giscard d'Estaing took office with a commitment to liberalize the system and did introduce some changes, but he simply used different methods to exercise his influence, so that by the end of his term of office he not only controlled television and radio, but was beginning to influence the press as well.

Since M. Mitterrand was elected President on May 10 there have been considerable changes. M. Mitterrand and his colleagues, who had been to a great extent ignored in the past, are now frequently on people's screens. There has also been controversy over the fate of the top men and women in the broadcasting media, all of them appointees of M. Giscard. The new government, true to its promise not to conduct a witchhunt, has not dismissed them. But M. Fillard, the Minister of Communications, has brought pressure on them to resign by saying publicly that they did not carry out their obligations properly; and there has been further pressure from journalists' committees in the various organizations, which have demanded a say in both appointments and programming. Some of the Giscard appointees

have resigned, others have held firm.

It is hardly surprising that there should be bitterness over all this, and that those who are now under pressure to resign should claim to be victims of a witchhunt. French radio and television are intensely political organizations, so that when the political pendulum swings as far as it has now done in France there are bound to be repercussions. Some journalists who consider that they were silenced or downgraded for political reasons have seen a chance to assert themselves, or to take revenge. Others, who roed the Giscard line, maintain that they did so unwillingly and are now ready to change their tune. Others again argue that they upheld their professional integrity all along, and will continue to do so.

In all the hubbub, two things seem clear. One is that those people who were the most blatant examples of patronage, and who were responsible for the servile attitude of radio and television towards M. Giscard, can hardly expect to stay on. The other is that the government needs to act firmly to show that it really intends to carry out M. Mitterrand's pledge to introduce a more open and independent broadcasting system.

tem, rather than simply using the media for its own ends.

In his statement to the Cabinet on Wednesday, M. Fillard set out the principles that will be incorporated in legislation to be introduced this autumn. They include respect for pluralism and full autonomy for the bodies responsible for radio and television. This is in line with campaign undertakings by the Socialist Party that the heads of the three television channels and of the radio services would no longer be appointed by the President as under M. Giscard, but by their respective boards, on which the government would be in a minority.

But given the powers which a French President and his government have, more will be needed than new structures. By the appointments it makes and the spirit in which it interprets the law, the government will have to show that it does not intend simply to replace control by M. Giscard's supporters with control by its own. Real change would be in its own interest. M. Giscard's power over broadcasting not only failed to save him from defeat but may even have contributed by provoking the scepticism and hostility which is the famous public response to government-controlled media in most parts of the world.

minister. The Rev Elizabeth Bultride was appointed to the Norwich Circuit by the Primitive Methodist Conference in 1932 and on her death in 1980 the Conference took the opportunity of reminding the Church that "the gifts of the Spirit are without distinction of sex."

Yours truly,  
J. LESLIE NIGHTINGALE,  
11 Marshall's Road,  
Wellingborough,  
Northamptonshire,  
July 1.

### Closing ranks

From Professor M. R. Alderson  
Sir, Could Philip Howard (June 23) be only partly right about a cohort? I understood that once a cohort had been enlisted, there was no replacement of those dying or retiring by new recruits; the cohort thus gradually decreased in size.

Guidance on this point would be welcome as it is in this sense that the word is used in my field of medical statistics. I would hate to continue to make a mucker (or other-wise run the risk of offending

### Methodist ministry

From Mr J. L. Nightingale  
Sir, Yours news item of July 1 describes the Rev Christine Jones as Britain's first woman Methodist

minister. The Rev Elizabeth Bultride was appointed to the Norwich Circuit by the Primitive Methodist Conference in 1932 and on her death in 1980 the Conference took the opportunity of reminding the Church that "the gifts of the Spirit are without distinction of sex."

Yours truly,  
J. LESLIE NIGHTINGALE,  
11 Marshall's Road,  
Wellingborough,  
Northamptonshire,  
July 1.

## Losing the art of advocacy

From Mr A. C. Blythton  
Sir, In your edition of Wednesday, July 1, page 8, you carried a law reforming quotation of a judgment of Mr Justice Tudor Evans in the case of *Auty, Mills, Rogers and Popov v. National Coal Board*.

It is not a question to make any comment upon the merits of the case, but the purpose of this letter is to say how much we agree with the conclusion of Mr Justice Tudor Evans on the issue of refusing to admit expert witness evidence. We hope that the legal profession will not mind us making a comment generally on this issue, but over the years within the whole wide range of legal practice, we have found the use of professional experts becoming more widespread. The Lord Chancellor should note, we feel, the fact that if an examination of legal costs was to take place, it would be surprising to many people as to the extent to which this practice has developed in court cases.

Mr Justice Tudor Evans himself would recall that when he started out it was the rule that the barrister involved in the case was in advocacy and explanation of the facts of a case that they do today, whereby most court cases are taken up in cross-examination of witnesses, professional or otherwise. We cannot but think that the judge, with our solicitors, taking great pains to build a model of a member's workplace so that they could explain to the judge what exactly occurred.

These days barristers are more inclined to state that the judge will want an expert in any event and, therefore, we must have one, thus removing from court hearings a particular facet of advocacy which, in the past, has waned throughout the years.

We are not too sure whether judges actually agree with this, but it is sad to relate that most cases, whatever they are, now turn upon the views of the professional witnesses and, as we have said, this runs right over the wide reaches of the law. It may be a good and opportune time for the Lord Chancellor and his department to reflect on this, for this is necessarily producing the right sort of results, particularly where a poor, unfortunate individual is relying upon experts who give virtually second-hand evidence and who are not fallible. It is a legal adviser who has selected the right expert or not.

With the advent of the raising of the county court limits to a much higher figure than is justified, we feel that the time has come for an examination of the whole of the conducting legal cases before the courts. There ought to be more agreed items laid down so that the court does not waste its time on unnecessary facts and we should get back to the days when the judge, where barristers have to convince judges of the legal correctness of the cases which they are conducting, rather than rely upon expert professional witnesses.

This letter may of course result in some controversy, but we feel that the matter has drifted far enough and a proper appraisal is clearly necessary with a view to seeing what can be done to cut down the vast expense of the advocacy of the past. Inflation alone is not responsible for these because we feel that it will be found that experts who are employed command even greater fees than the barristers and solicitors involved in the case.

Yours faithfully,  
A. C. BLYTHTON,  
Secretary,  
Legal Department,  
Transport and General Workers' Union,  
Transport House,  
St. Paul's Square, SW1,  
July 1.

## West Indians in school

From Mr James Hutchinson  
Sir, While I agree with the drift of Mrs. Best's arguments (June 27) as a schoolmaster should point out that the abolition of misadventure arising if a parent fails to recognize the long established convention of report writing. Why does a teacher write, "Jones has a confident attitude and is lively in his imagination when he means 'Jones will not let a class and has a mind like a sewer'."

There are two reasons. First, the mistaken belief that parents will penetrate the Delphic utterance, second, the responsibility he feels for writing the unadorned truth. What effect on a pupil's work and self-esteem will a "hopeless case" have? Should the teacher perhaps encourage and urge a parent to go against a domineering and over-zealous parent who has unrealistic expectations of a child's ability?

The answer to Mrs. Best's problem is, I think, not to be given by the parent and school. If I know a parent well I can say exactly what I feel; if I have hardly met the parent then I have recourse to the cliché.

Parents must not be over-ruled by the professionals and teachers must stop hiding behind jargon and patronizing parents. After all we are, or should be, on the same side.

Yours sincerely,  
J. S. HUTCHINSON,  
20 St. Paul's Road, E.3,  
June 25.

## Rates burden

From Mr Frank Othick  
Sir, Your Local Government Correspondence article (June 25) that the Government's autumn legislation the main proposal will be an imposed limit on increases in industrial and commercial rates, thus placing a bigger burden on domestic ratepayers.

If, as seems likely, this concession extends to all commercial properties, householders, without the tax relief on rates enjoyed by the commercial neighbours, will also have the privilege of helping occupants of offices (in the City of London they account for 84 per cent of the total rateable value of 240,000) and do not look threatening in any locality), shops (including such hard-pressed as banks, building societies, estate agents and book-makers), hotels, restaurants and public houses, even holiday camps and caravan fields.

Let us hope that this proposal will be intelligently thought through before legislation is drafted.

Yours, etc.,  
FRANK OTTHICK,  
93 High Street,  
Epsom,  
Surrey.

## Approaches to inner-city policing

From Mr J. Rea Price  
Sir, The Scarsman inquiry throws into relief two contrasting approaches to inner-city policing. There is the home-beat officer, welcomed and accepted in all corners of his police community, the local conventions of antipathy to the police, even in Brixton. Then there are the mobile bands of young, inexperienced and apparently ill-equipped, wholly unfamiliar with neighbourhoods into which they are drafted at extreme points of tension.

The Commissioner is indeed lucky that these demands are being made on his resources at a time when the "Met's" strength is the highest for many years. At least he has been more generally treated by the present Administration than those of us in other public services.

Certainly, the London policeman on foot is now a much more common sight than he (or she) was in the days of the "Met's" policies, seem to be more fluid than they have been for some years. Scarsman could well influence the direction things take — but which will be a much more determined policy of a police force which has hitherto been against the competing demands of specialist task forces and high-technology policing?

One commiserates with the appalling and serious problem that the Commissioner faces in policing a capital city as well as a series of neighbourhoods with their own individualities and sensitivities. Even on an ordinary day, I am told, for

example that inner-city Islington may have had its own police deployed on "capital city duties" outside the borough. What chance community policing in this situation?

Perhaps, though, this increase in manpower gives a new margin to play with, and I would plead with the Met's to recognize the priority of the home-beat officer. Colleagues from education, health and social services at the front line find that where there is a regular and intensive home-beat policing, joint action becomes possible to avert delinquency, family violence and vandalism. But this cannot only develop between our agencies, our communities and a known figure, particularly a policeman whose contribution and personality are able to transcend the stereotypes his uniform otherwise attracts.

Stability of manpower is also important. Over the last year the losses other services have experienced through cuts have to some extent been compensated by statutory workforces. Would that the same could be said of the Met, which appears to be a constant merry-go-round, particularly at senior level.

There is, of course, no senior officer in the Yard's Community Relations Division who was there a year ago. Surely in this division above all continuity and consistency are required. Poles alone are not good enough as a memory.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN REA PRICE,  
Director of Social Services,  
London Borough of Islington,  
17 Islington Park Street, N1,  
June 30.

## A voice abroad

From the Director-General of the English-Speaking Union  
Sir, I was concerned to read of the budget cuts the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has announced for the external services of the BBC. Such cuts will not only directly and adversely affect the BBC but will also diminish Britain's efforts at transmitting its attitudes to peoples outside the United Kingdom. The BBC's overseas efforts present to other people in the world aspects of British culture which help to cast a favourable light on this nation. The English language provides many of the only windows through which the world can see the British people and their attitudes and encourages a greater understanding of Britain in other parts of the world. The BBC currently reaches about 44 million adults through its overseas services, and to the world at large it is welcomed by so many people as an unwise course of action indeed.

Every effort should be made to discover any avenues which may lead to sponsorship of the BBC in the future. It is perhaps a pity that the BBC is not economically poor times. Perhaps industries or trusts could lead financial support; this may not be the most attractive alternative to many people, but it is one worth exploring. It would be a pity if through the Foreign Office without endangering the BBC's charter.

I agree that other economies should be made before serious programmes are forced to suffer. The BBC provides an important service not only to Britons but also, through the external services which are in danger of being suspended, an inexpensive and effective means of communication to people in other parts of the world. I would hope that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office would be willing to re-examine its priorities and reconsider its efforts to withdraw one of the most

effective ambassadors abroad. Britain can claim.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS,  
The English-Speaking Union,  
Dartmouth House,  
37 Charles Street,  
Berkeley Square, W1,  
June 25.

From the President of the Italian Chamber of Commerce for Great Britain  
Sir, I feel I must write to you both as an Italian and as a senior announcer/translator in the Italian service of the BBC during the war years 1941-45. We were then the connecting thread between the free and the oppressed people of the world. We helped to counter the Nazi-fascist propaganda machine and on visiting us in Bush House an Italian colonel from Badoglio headquarters told me: "The Italian section has been worth to Great Britain more than a division of soldiers."

Millions were listening to us then; many are listening today 40 years later. But I must ask: is the situation really very different today? An enormous amount of alien ideology, 219 hours a week, is being beamed in Italian to the Italians daily from the other side of the iron curtain. The largest communist party in Western Europe is anxious to come to power and, for the sake of saving perhaps £200, it is planned to stop the seven hours a week broadcast in Italian from London and to extinguish a flame which has kept alive the resistance of all freedom-loving people against the tyranny of the East for over 40 years. Frankly no comment is necessary.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
MASSIMO COEN,  
20 Savile Row, W1,  
June 30.

## Choice of schools

From Mr D. A. Frith  
Sir, On June 11 you published a letter from Mr. Frank Fisher detailing the rights of parents to choose private education for their children and deploring the policy statements which were recently issued by the Labour Party and which were directed towards the abolition of fee-paying schools. I have little doubt that Mr. Fisher was right in believing that there is a wide measure of support for many of the views which he expressed.

This letter may, however, be of concern to protect the independence of education from central state control should be extended beyond the independent sector. In broad terms the maintained sector has continued to live within the tradition of professional independence which characterized the best fee-paying schools. Certainly during my 25 years as headmaster of a maintained school I felt free in my relationship with parents, governors, and local authority. Basically I believe that this was because that relationship was founded upon personal contact with local people whose attitudes and decisions stemmed from their membership of particular and distinctive communities, who felt able to influence the decisions made, and in the case of the authority, had a degree of autonomy commensurate with the responsibilities which they carried.

Readers who may have read the article by Professor J. P. Stewart in *The Times* Educational Supplement of June 12 may agree with him that

the present move to establish strict and direct control over local authority spending which in this context precisely means spending on education — may constitute the first real threat of destruction to our liberal tradition of education in the maintained schools. If the Government intend to give greater powers to control educational expenditure, it will be able to do so with insensitivity to what this will mean in a wide variety of different local circumstances. They will do so without any sense of discretion or accountability to those who teach and learn in the country's schools, and to the parents who must use those schools.

Nor must it be supposed, once a local authority has been deprived of the power to live within its own rates to match the perceived needs of the local community, that a subsequent government might restore that power. Any government is reluctant to relinquish the powers which it inherits.

If the performance of maintained schools has given rise to some disappointment, whether justified or not, let nobody suppose that starving them of resources, or preventing local people from cutting their own coat from their own cloth is likely to do anything but make matters a very great deal worse.

Central control will stifle the liveliness of local initiatives and encourage the spread of dull uniformity.

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD FRITH,  
General Secretary,  
Secondary Heads' Association,  
29 Gordon Square, WC1.

## Church treasure

From Mrs Joan Connolly  
Sir, I have a lot of sympathy for Canon Sharpe (letter, June 27) and his parishioners, the problem of valuable altar silver is faced by many churches. I belong to a relatively modern church which has had most of its silver stolen and we now use sports trophies whose rings have been straightened. These seem much friendlier than any mass-produced objects and I'm sure suitable vessels would be readily offered in many parishes.

Yours faithfully,  
JOAN W. CONNOLLY,  
12 Beckenham Road,  
West Wickham,  
Kent.

programmes, whether they are road or rail, not just as a means of giving employment to the depressed construction industries but to build up our national transport infrastructure. Railway electrification and the M25 should not be seen as mutually exclusive.

Yours etc.,  
W. BRADSHAW, Director of Strategic Development,  
British Railways Board,  
Euston Square, NW1,  
June 30.

Mythicalism may have been divided, but most of the membership refused to take sides between the extremes of conventional demonstrations and civil disobedience. In the middle of the movement there was not a split but a wide overlap between marchers and sitters which Russell encouraged and for a time represented.

Mythicalism were invented by the media should not pass into history without being challenged, and this one is no better for being 20 years old.

NICOLAS WALTER,  
134 Northumberland Road,  
Harrow,  
Middlesex.

## Trials of Nazi war criminals

From Dr Martin Kolinsky  
Sir, It was most unfortunate that the feature on the Majdanek trial (July 1) conveyed such weariness with war crimes trials. Two years ago, on July 3, 1979, the Bundestag decided to abolish the Statute of Limitations on the prosecution of murder. The debate showed that it was precisely because the Holocaust and the related crimes of mass murder were moral problems beyond the ordinary that prosecutions should continue without time restrictions.

However the Bundestag did not address itself to the question of how the trials should be conducted. It continued to be left to the judiciary as if ordinary procedures could automatically apply to the extraordinary situations. No effort was made to establish a separate procedure, or to monitor the process through the Bundestag, as the forum of the nation and through the federal government. Yet the crimes were organized by a regime in control of the German state, armed forces and police.

Therefore it is not merely criminal individuals who are on trial; what is fundamentally at stake is the way in which this past is integrated with the present in a nation's consciousness.

Although common justice may be beyond reach, lassitude or indifference would represent injustice to the memory of the victims and the surviving relatives and friends. And beyond that, it would be unfair to those in the Federal Republic who have the moral courage to face the dreadful reality of their inheritance, and to those everywhere who try to comprehend the human devastation which the trials recall.

Yours sincerely,  
MARTIN KOLINSKY,  
Department of Political Science,  
University of Birmingham,  
Murdock Tower,  
P.O. Box 363,  
Birmingham,  
July 1.

From Mrs Nicole David  
Sir, Patricia Clough (July 1) in her interesting article writes that her father, who was a victim of the Holocaust, was running out for the persecutors and persecuted, and soon its aftermath was in his history.

May I suggest that time is running out because the world chooses to write history very quickly. It is so much easier to read history books rather than deal with the persecutors and look after the persecuted.

My father, at the age of 80, is indeed ill and frail but has no difficulty in remembering my mother and our family's deportation, our years in hiding in Belgium, and was six. I think I can say as the thousands who were my age and have survived that we will have to live with our memories for many years before passing into history.

Yours faithfully,  
NICOLE DAVID,  
34 Kilduff Road, N11,  
July 1.

## Russell and the bomb

From Mr Alistair Horne  
Sir, Your excerpt (June 27) from Ronald Clark's *Bertrand Russell and His World* does too little to recall the essential silliness of Bertrand Russell, and some of his utterances made during the "act of barbarism."

While researching in the Kennedy Library in Boston, Mass., recently, I came across a letter (undated, but written presumably some time in June, 1952) by Russell to President Kennedy. Using what was hardly the language of the reflective philosopher, it castigated the resumption of US nuclear tests, which followed Khrushchev's exploding of several megaton bombs. It was a powerful warning of the "act of barbarism" and predicted: "Immediately, tens of thousands will be caused to die. This is premeditated murder." (Russell's italics)

As desirable as these tests may have been, now nearly 20 years later one knows that "tens of thousands" did not in fact die. This unsentimental wilderness of Russell seems of particular relevance when a new worldwide nuclear campaign is under way. This time against peaceful atomic development, but promoted by much the same cast as supported Russell and CND a generation ago.

Clearly very serious safeguards need to be taken, but Russell's prediction does seem to suggest that today we should perhaps pay more attention to the scientists, and less to woolly-minded philosophers and politically motivated sociologists.

Yours, etc.,  
ALISTAIR HORNE,  
21 Landsdowne Road, W11

From Mr Nicolas Walter  
Sir, Ronald Clark's article on Bertrand Russell's part in the nuclear disarmament movement (June 27), which is digested from the last five chapters of his biography, *Bertrand Russell (1918-1970)*, is a statement from the book that the foundation of the Committee of 100 in 1960 "split the movement down the middle". It did no such thing.

The leadership may have been divided, but most of the membership refused to take sides between the extremes of conventional demonstrations and civil disobedience. In the middle of the movement there was not a split but a wide overlap between marchers and sitters which Russell encouraged and for a time represented.

Mythicalism were invented by the media should not pass into history without being challenged, and this one is no better for being 20 years old.

NICOLAS WALTER,  
134 Northumberland Road,  
Harlow,  
Middlesex.

## Topless in 'The Times'

From Mr D. J. Owen  
Sir, Sir Robin MacLellan (June 30) should not protest too loudly at your eliciting the top off head and shoulders photographs. Does not his own family escutcheon bear a head impaled upon a sword? Surely the unkindest cut of all!

Yours faithfully,  
D. J. OWEN,  
21 Salisbury Road,  
Rednash, Bristol,  
June 30.











...to-police  
...for  
...shots, page 1  
...markets

1980/81		Gross Div Yld	
High	Low	Company	Price Ch'ge

BRITISH FUNDS				Price Change % P/E				High Low Company				Price Change % P/E				High Low Company				Price Change % P/E										
1000000	Each	9-14-1981	99.00	8,817.11,880				138	85	Edmo	35	+	4.7	6.6	94	26	Madison	44	+	4.4	7.1	71	27	Volvo	429	+	1.4	1.1	27	27
1000000	Each	9-14-1981	99.00	1,036.11,101				139	86	Edmo	35	+	4.7	6.6	94	26	Madison	44	+	4.4	7.1	71	27	Volvo	429	+	1.4	1.1	27	27
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1000000	Each	9-14-1981	9																											



Point-to-point  
race for  
robots, page 19

# Business News

THE TIMES July 3 1981

Alvis leaves  
the BL  
stable, page 19

**Stock markets**  
FT Index 545.9 down 2.8  
FT Gilts 65.51 unchanged

**Sterling**  
\$ 1.8840 down 190 points  
Index 92.1 down 1.0

**Dollar**  
Index 109.4 down 0.4  
DM 2.4080 down 12 pts

**Gold**  
\$414.50 down \$11

**Money**  
3 mth sterling 123-124  
3 mth Euro \$ 181-181  
6 mth Euro \$ 171-171

## IN BRIEF

### NI raises share offer for Collins

Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International yesterday raised its offer for the non-voting ordinary "A" shares of publishers William Collins Sons (Holdings) by 8 per cent to 163p.

The move follows talks with the Takeover Panel which was believed to be unhappy with the disparity between the price offered for the voting and non-voting stock. Last week, NI increased its offer for the ordinary shares by 12.5 per cent to 225p, but left the "A" share offer unchanged at 150p. The new offers now value Collins at around £25m.

But the Panel has yet to reach a decision on whether the 9.5 per cent stake in Collins, bought by NI from Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press broke the rules of the Takeover Code.

**Japanese imports**  
The British motor industry had been very successful in limiting the level of Japanese car imports to the United Kingdom by voluntary agreement, Mr George Turnbull, chairman of Talbot UK, said yesterday. Without the efforts of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, the Japanese would now be taking at least 20 per cent of the British car market as they had in the United States. In 1980 Japanese cars accounted for 11.7 per cent of the British market.

**German money target**  
The West German Federal Bank will aim to keep the annual growth rate of central bank money stock within a 4 to 5.5 per cent band during the rest of this year. At its mid-year review of money supply policy, held in Frankfurt yesterday, the bank's central council agreed that there was no need to change the overall 1981 target which envisaged a 4 to 7 per cent growth between the fourth quarter of 1980 and the final quarter of this year.

**Meat jobs to go**  
The FMC meat group said yesterday that it may be forced to make further redundancies. The company blamed Danish competitors for forcing margins down. Danish meat exporters cut their wholesale price in Britain by almost 2p a pound yesterday leaving it about 3p a pound lower than a year ago. FMC would not say exactly how many jobs would be lost.

**Toyota-Ford talks off**  
Toyota Motor Company yesterday suspended talks in Tokyo with Ford Motor Company over its production plans in the United States but denied that threats of an Arab boycott of Toyota products was the main reason. Toyota president Mr Eiji Toyoda said the suspension was temporary.

**BL one-day week**  
More workers at BL's export packing factory at Cowley, Oxford, are to go on a one-day strike. Twenty already on short time and will be joined by another 75 at the end of the month.

**Beer output down**  
Beer production in May fell 9 per cent on an annual comparison to 3.5 million bulk barrels. Bad weather was to blame, said the Brewers' Society. Production over the first five months of this year has dropped 7.5 per cent compared with the same period last year.

**France cuts MLR**  
The Bank of France has reduced its seven-day treasury bill discount rate to 19.75 per cent from 22 per cent. The rate is a key market indicator and effectively represents the central bank's minimum lending rate.

**Wall Street lower**  
The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 959.15, down 8.47 on Wall Street yesterday. The S-DJR exchange rate was 1.14252 while the E-SDR rate was 0.606981.

## Cut promised soon in US interest rates

From Frank Vogel, Washington, July 2

Mr David Stockman, United States Director of the Office of Management and Budget, today predicted lower American interest rates and a stronger dollar. He said there will be greater financial market stability and reassured Wall Street by stressing that the administration will achieve its restrained budget deficit targets.

Mr Stockman, who is widely viewed as the most influential of President Reagan's economic advisers, said that the economy is slowing down, inflation is moderating and in coming months interest rates will fall. He noted that there could be money market liquidity squeezes and that these could produce temporary volatility in interest rates and even some short-term increases.

Such conditions are being seen this week. Today both the Chase Manhattan Bank and the First National Bank of Chicago increased their prime lending rates to 20 1/2 per cent from 20 per cent.

The budget director suggested at a press conference that the dollar has advanced in terms of European currencies in recent months mainly because of high American interest rates. He said this phase of dollar appreciation is almost over, but added that a further strengthening of the dollar is likely as confidence increases in the currency because of falling inflation.

Mr Stockman said that this dollar strength, reflecting greater American price stability, is beneficial for all nations, because a stronger American economy clearly assists world economic growth.

## Substantial aid for pound

By Frances Williams

Figures published yesterday on Britain's official reserves for June suggest that the Bank of England was forced to intervene on a substantial scale during the month to smooth the pound's abrupt fall against the dollar and European currencies. There was an underlying outflow from the reserves of \$388m, the largest drop since October 1979. This compares with an underlying inflow of \$278m in May.

Treasury officials, while as usual cautioning that the underlying outflow reflects a variety of transactions, confirmed that market intervention was substantial. But there has been no change in the Bank of England's policy of acting to smooth excessive fluctuations rather than influence the level of the pound's exchange rate.

During June, the pound fell nearly 7 per cent against the dollar and almost 4 per cent against the Deutsche Mark, while its effective exchange rate dropped to 1.14 from 1.19.

At the end of June, the reserves stood at \$25,631m (£13,223m), a drop of \$856m (£442m) over the month, after repayment of \$468m of official foreign borrowings.

The Government repaid ahead of schedule a further \$250m of the \$2,500m Euro-dollar loan raised in 1974.

## Record profits for GEC

By Richard Allen

GEC, Britain's biggest employer in the private manufacturing sector, overcame the recession to lift pretax profits by £51m to a record £476m in the year to March 31.

The group's cash and debt rose £62m to £561m during the period even after outgoings totalling £85m on acquisitions, mainly in the United States.

Not all the group's divisions escaped the depression and lower profits were made on consumer products and industrial operations. But the big electronics arm showed a strong improvement as did power engineering, which is benefiting from big international power station contracts for turbine generators.

GEC's shares rose 5p to 74 1/2p after the announcement of an increase in the final dividend payment of almost 28 per cent. This raises the total for the year by almost a quarter to 14 1/2p.

One of the strengths of sterling, GEC's exports rose last year by almost a fifth to £965m out of a total turnover of £3,462m. The group's end-year export order book was up by a third to £1,209m.

GEC's workforce totalled 157,000 at the end of the period, compared with 153,000 previously.

Scottish & Newcastle, the Edinburgh-based brewer, managed to increase profits from its main beer division despite the recession in the industry. However group profits still fell from £39.1m to £33.1m due to higher interest charges and lower profits from other activities. The dividend is unchanged at 6.25p gross.

Although borrowings have risen again, Mr Peter Balfour, chairman, said there were no plans for a rights issue.

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## Memec besieged by investors

By Rosemary Unsworth

More than £250m has been subscribed for the £25m offer for sale of shares of Memec, the electronic component distributor, in which Stock Exchange dealings are expected to start next week.

Charterhouse Japhet, the group's bankers, said yesterday that it expected the offer to be at least 50 times oversubscribed.

Last night it was still counting the applications and said that the basis of allocation would be announced today. But it was already clear that the smaller applications would have to go to ballot.

The offer, which represents 35 per cent of the equity, was unusual because the company decided to go for full listing rather than join the unlisted securities market.

The offer price of 140p for the 3.75 million shares available now looks certain to show a premium on the first day of dealing, and one stockbroker, Scott, Coff, Hancock, was recommending purchases at up to 175p a share earlier in the week.

Memec (Memory and Electronic Components), made pretax profits of £1.4m on sales of £7.3m last year.

Pearson Longman, the media empire which contributes reading matter to most British homes, yesterday took the plunge and joined the video revolution.

Mr James Lee, Pearson's chief executive, forecast that within five years the group would have as much capital employed in making films and television programmes as in each of its four divisions—the Financial Times group, Westminster Press, Penguin Books, and Longman the publishers.

A few days after announcing its intention to buy a 25 per cent stake in Yorkshire Television, it is to launch Goldcrest Films and Television, a films and video company, to handle the expansion of the group's business.

It has recruited Mr Mike Wooller, the distinguished pro-



Builders of tomorrow posed yesterday in London with Sir Michael Edwards, Lord Scanlon and Mr J. M. K. Kendall-Carpenter, headmaster of Wellington School (right), after receiving prizes in The Times engineering essay competition.

## Challenge for tomorrow's engineers

By Anne Warden

Britain is the best place in the world to bring about a recovery in exports, Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, told winners of The Times Engineering Essay Competition yesterday. The winners are all sixth formers or university students.

One of Britain's problems is that salesmen travel, but engineers do not, he said. Britain exports 32 per cent of its gross national product, a much higher proportion than many other countries.

But he stressed their talent was not enough to prop up industry in the future. Tomorrow's engineers will be concerned with wider issues, he said. However, the difference of attitude over the last seven years has been dramatic, he added.

Sir Michael also said that women "have a hell of a big contribution to make" to engineering.

Lord Scanlon, chairman of the Engineering Industry Training Board, compared his presence at the Engineering Employers' Federation to a return to the gladiatorial arena. He said the need for a wealth-producing base in the United Kingdom was self-evident. He said he and the other competition judges found the students' essays interesting and enlightening.

The competition was sponsored by The Times and the Engineering Careers Information Service, which was formed five years ago to advise young people about careers in engineering. In this first year of the competition, 467 students submitted essays. Of these, 399 were from schools or colleges of education, and 68 were from universities or polytechnics. They were written at a time when students were already busy preparing for examinations.

There were two top prizes of £500, one for a sixth form student and one for a university student. Mark Rothery of Wellington School, Somerset, won the schools prize, and Andrew Bud of Christ's College, Cambridge, won the university prize. The subject of the essays was "What I expect engineers to contribute in the next 30 years to our nation's prosperity".

Sir Michael presented prizes to the 17 best essayists at the headquarters of the Engineering Employers' Federation. Pictured (left to right, back row) are: Richard Beech (Gloucester College of Arts and Technology, Cheltenham); Michael Potts (Haberders' Aske's Boys' School, Elstree, Herts); Alexander Stephen (Glasgow University); Andrew Bud (Christ's College, Cambridge, graduate winner); Peter Mason (Bishops Vesey's Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield); Sonia Bartolucci (Haberders' Aske's School for Girls, Elstree, Herts); Katherine Williams (Polytechnic of the South Bank, London); Ruth Jolley (Loughborough High School for Girls, Loughborough).

(Front row): John Webber (Worthing College of Technology, Worthing); Eric Benedicts (Imperial College of Science and Technology, London); Colin Wright (Harefield County High School, Wilmslow); Stewart Mansfield (Polytechnic of the South Bank, London); Frank Benjamin (Churchill College, Cambridge); Martin King (Polytechnic of the South Bank, London); Mark Rothery (Wellington School, Somerset, sixth-form winner); Mr J. M. Kendall-Carpenter, headmaster, Wellington School (winning school).

## BL sells Alvis and its tanks in £27m deal

By Rupert Morris

BL announced yesterday that it was to sell Alvis, its profitable Coventry-based subsidiary, to United Scientific Holdings for £27m.

Alvis, once a car manufacturer, now concentrates mainly on making various versions of the "Scorpion" tank, for sale to the Ministry of Defence and for export to 14 other countries.

The sale is in line with the Government's demilitarization programme, and BL's intention of concentrating on its mainstream activities of producing cars, trucks and buses.

The buyer, United Scientific Holdings, is a highly successful British company making military range-finding, optical and electronic equipment, much of which is fitted in Scorpion tanks.

The deal is a coup for USH, and more or less doubles its size. It has several competitors for Alvis, and the purchase has been approved both by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, and by the Ministry of Defence. The money will be raised by a rights issue, and completion is expected in September. USH share dealings were suspended yesterday.

The Alvis works force of 1,800 is equivalent to the total workforce of USH, which has two factories at Tamworth, Somerset, one at Belvedere, Kent, and a headquarters in London, as well as factories in Dallas, Texas, and Chicago, elsewhere in the United States, and in Singapore.

Mr Peter Levene, USH managing director, who will become chairman of Alvis, said the present workforce would not be affected. "We do not intend to make any significant changes," he said.

Mr Levene, who had approached Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, in February, said Alvis would have dramatically improved export opportunities as a result of the deal. Under BL, Alvis had concentrated on home orders, but now it would be able to take advantage of USH's international contacts.

"Alvis will be the jewel in our crown," said Mr Levene.

Alvis produced about 350 vehicles last year. Its turnover was £50,106,000, and net pretax profits were £6,971,000, more than double the previous year's.

## Nuclear financing review

By Rupert Morris

A review of the financial structure of the National Nuclear Corporation was announced yesterday by Mr Norman Lamont, Under-Secretary of State for Energy. It could involve some injection of money by the Government.

The move is a response to the complaints of the Central Electricity Generating Board that the NNC is under-capitalised, and is therefore unable to take on the risks involved in building nuclear power stations.

It is also evidence of a new determination in the Government to accelerate the nuclear programme. On Tuesday, it announced the appointment of Mr Frank Gibb to succeed Mr Denis Rooney as NNC chairman, and set up a task force under Dr Walter Marshall to expedite a design study on the pressurised water reactor.

Mr Lamont was replying to a parliamentary question, said, "I have agreed with the corporation and the generating boards that there should be a review of how the National Nuclear Corporation's role in relation to the major financial risks involved in nuclear power station construction could be strengthened."

The views of all the NNC shareholders will be sought in the course of this exercise.

## Publishing group joins the video revolution

By David Hewson

Mr Lee, who will be chairman of the new company, said yesterday that he would produce a series of programme titles and officers for it in September.

"We feel that over the decade that is coming there is going to be an enormous growth in demand for high quality film and television programmes. It is rather ironic in some ways, because the 1970s have not been particularly good for film and television," he said.

Pearson already has some experience of film financing. It is part owner, with the National Coal Board Pension Fund, Elected House and others, of Goldcrest Films International, which has been involved in film production and is a leading backer of Sir Richard Attenborough's film on the life of Gandhi. The new company will own around 40 per cent of GFI.

Mr Lee said that in addition, Pearson would establish a fund of £5m for deficit financing of television programmes, and, in conjunction with outside investors, create a further two pools of finance for programme production. If its targets were met, it would have between £25m and £30m under its control for financing film and television productions.

Although a number of small-scale, independent production companies have been formed with the main intention of producing for Channel 4, the new commercial channel, Pearson's is the first large-scale involvement of a big British company outside the entertainment field in producing material for what is expected to be one of the fastest growing markets.

## Inmos plan for plant in Japan

From Peter Hill, Colorado Springs, July 2

Inmos, the semi-conductor company being backed by almost £100m of British Government aid, may establish a manufacturing plant in Japan to help it achieve its goal of becoming one of the world's leading producers of general purpose microchips.

A decision on the location and scale of the next phase manufacturing investment is likely to be taken early next year by the company's board. Inmos has a 70 per cent stake, because of the two-year lead time involved in planning.

The Japanese market is a vital one, accounting for an estimated 25 per cent of total world semi-conductor sales. Inmos, which faces competition from Japanese companies, is nevertheless keen to carve out a large share of the market.

A decision to go ahead with direct investment in Japan, almost certainly through a joint venture with a Japanese micro-electronics company, would raise doubts about the company's original plans to supplement its United Kingdom production facility, now being built at Newport, Gwent, with a second British plant.

Work on the first part of the Newport project is going according to plan after being delayed by the Government's indecision over the provision of a second £25m tranche of capital. The Welsh plant is due to begin production next summer and will employ about 1,000 workers.

Dr Richard Petritz, one of the company's three founders, and its chairman, said that ideas on Japan were at a very preliminary stage. Earlier this year, however, Inmos appointed Matsushita Electric Trading Company as its Japanese distributor.

Dr Petritz said: "The first base is marketing. It is fair to say that we are investigating the possibility of going further than that."

## Italy given ultimatum over EEC steel pact

From Peter Norman, Brussels, July 2

Italy has so far failed to approve formally the agreement setting out the conditions under which the European steel industry is to operate.

The Government in Rome failed to meet yesterday's deadline for giving written agreement to the pact worked out by EEC industry ministers in Luxembourg a week ago.

At a meeting of representatives of the 10 member states in Brussels today, Italy was given until 2 p.m. tomorrow to approve the deal.

Italy is believed to be dissatisfied with some aspects of the social part of the agreement, which calls upon member states to help pay for short-time working and early retirement for steelworkers in Britain, France and Belgium.

But it was unclear today whether the Italians' objections are strong enough to jeopardise the pact or whether the delay results from the recent change of government in Rome.

The European Commission today ordered steelworks in the EEC to cut back sharply the output of these products still subject to mandatory quotas in the third quarter of this year.

The Commission called for a 27 per cent cut in the production of hot strip more than three millimetres thick, a 28 per cent cut in cold and hot strip of less than three millimetres, a 17 per cent production cut for galvalised strip and a 30 per cent cut in output of reinforcing bars and merchant bars. No production cut was ordered for plated sheet, other than galvalised strip. Deliveries to the internal EEC market of the thicker hot strip are to be cut by 31 per cent.

## Blundell-Permoglaze

Holdings p.l.c.

Interim Statement

	Half Year (unaudited)	Full Year
	30.4.81	30.4.80
	£'000	£'000
Sales	10,690	10,796
Profit before Tax	313	540
Earnings per Ordinary Share	2.2p	3.9p
Dividend per Ordinary Share	1.60p	1.60p
		4.80p

**Points from the Statement by the Chairman, Robert White:**

- \* The continuing recession has had its inevitable effect on our interim results.
- \* Exports have recovered well and are exceeding expectations.
- \* Results of second half-year expected to be similar to corresponding period last year.
- \* Continuing strong liquid position.
- \* Acquisition of Federated Paints Limited announced.
- \* Interim dividend maintained at 1.60p per share.

**BLUNDELL-PERMOGLAZE**  
The experts' expert

A group of companies concerned with the manufacture of building paints and industrial finishes.  
York House, 37 Queen Square, London WC1N 3BL

## PRICE CHANGES

<b>Rises</b>			
Dunbar Grp	25p to 52 1/2p	Ranger Oil	18p to 67 1/2p
Elmhurst Gold	8p to 13 1/2p	Sangers	22p to 69p
Haden	18p to 19 1/2p	Sun Alliance	22p to 91 1/2p
Lasmo	13p to 55 1/2p	Union Discount	15p to 48 1/2p
Marvale Con	7p to 11 1/2p	Western Areas	11p to 20 1/2p
<b>Falls</b>			
Amber Day	11p to 26p	K Collins	1p to 15p
As Leisure	6p to 13 1/2p	Dowty Grp	8p to 29 1/2p
As News	7p to 23 1/2p	Gas & Oil Acc	10p to 45 1/2p
S & W Beristord	8p to 12 1/2p	J Salisbury	12p to 42 1/2p
Castlefield	15p to 45 1/2p	AG Stanley	3p to 6 1/2p



## Japan urged to reduce trade curbs

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